Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery: Foundation EPA #9

Identifying patients presenting with an anticipated difficult airway and preparing for initial management options

Key Features:
- This EPA may be observed in a real or simulated case.

Assessment plan:

Direct observation by supervisor

Use Form 1.

Collect 2 observations of achievement
- At least 2 different observers

Relevant milestones:

1. ME 1.7 Recognize and respond to the complexity and uncertainty with managing an anticipated difficult airway by seeking proper assistance
2. ME 2.1 Recognize patients at risk of aspiration of gastric contents into the airway
3. ME 2.2 Elicit a focused history and perform a physical exam to identify patients with potential for a difficult airway
4. ME 2.2 Identify predictors of a difficult airway on physical examination such as a large overbite, large tongue, narrow mouth opening, short chin and/or Mallampati score
5. ME 2.4 Recognize and suggest an initial management plan for emergent issues
6. ME 3.1 Understand the indications and risks of rapid sequence induction and intubation and their steps of execution
7. COM 5.1 Document the airway/intubation information accurately and comprehensively within an electronic or written medical record
8. COL 1.3 Communicate effectively with physicians and other colleagues in the health care professions
9. COL 2.1 Actively listen to and engage in interactions with collaborators
10. COL 2.1 Show respect towards collaborators
11. L 2.2 Apply American Society of Anesthesiology (ASA) Guidelines for Management of the Difficult Airway
12. S 1.1 Demonstrate a structured approach to monitoring progress of learning in the clinical setting
13. S 1.2 Identify opportunities for learning and improvement by reflecting on and assessing performance and preparation
14. S 3.1 Recognize uncertainty and knowledge gaps in clinical and other professional encounters relevant to Oto-HNS