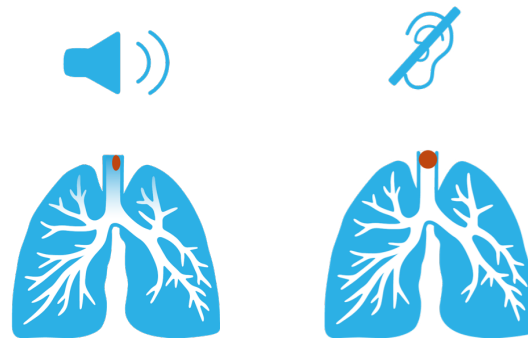


Airway and ventilation

OPENING THE AIRWAY

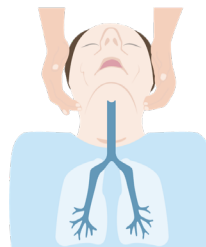
A patent airway is required for ventilation and oxygenation through the trachea. Stertorous breathing or stridor indicate partial airway obstruction. It is important to remember that complete airway obstruction, however, usually does not result in any sound.



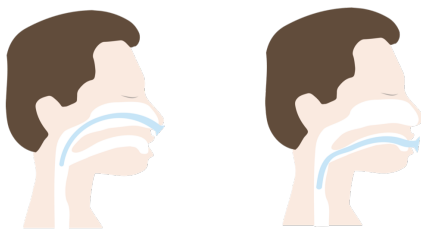
Simple, noninvasive interventions to open the airway include



Upright positioning



Jaw thrust or chin lift



Oral or nasal airway



Oral airways are generally not tolerated by patients who are not unconscious.

Oral appliances like dentures should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. While they may support the structural integrity of the airway in some patients, they may also cause obstruction, especially if they are loose. In some cases it may be better to leave them in place to support the airway, while in other cases it may be safer to remove them.