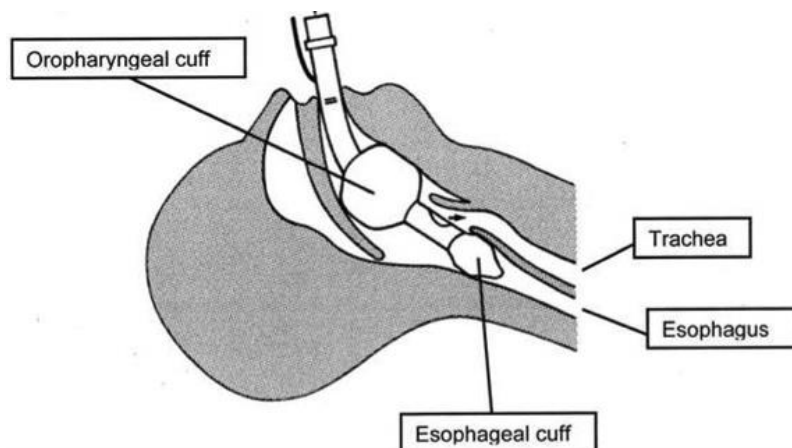


## Safety Advisory Notice – “King Laryngeal Tube “

One of the aims of the CAI Quality and Safety Advisory Committee is to ensure that there is rapid dissemination of safety related information to all our fellows and members through the publication of Safety Advisory Notices on the CAI website. The first of these Safety Advisory Notices relates to the use of the “King Laryngeal Tube” - a device used by paramedics with which anaesthetists may not be familiar. This has been brought to our attention by the Committee of Anaesthetists in Training.

The “ King Laryngeal Tube” is a supraglottic airway device which has two separate cuffs, inflated by a single pilot balloon. The manufacturer states it is ‘strategically designed to minimize airway trauma’.

The oropharyngeal cuff is large and provides the airway seal. The lower, oesophageal cuff, aims to provide some degree of reflux prevention.



Cuff volume depends on the size, however, an average adult would take a size four, which can take up to 80mls of air.

It is important to appreciate that

1. This is a supraglottic airway device. Newer generations have a channel which allows passage of a gastric tube. However, these are not definitive airways.
2. The cuff volume is large when compared with an LMA. The largest size can take up to 90mls of air. Failure to appreciate this and to fully deflate the cuff can lead to difficulty in removing this device (e.g. in the ED).

Response of CAI to this issue

- Safety Advisory Notice published on CAI website
- PHECC (Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council) have been contacted to establish a channel of communication and liaison in relation to airway devices
- Recommendation that these pre-hospital airway devices be included in future airway workshops

If you have encountered any potential risk to patient safety that you feel your colleagues should know about or you wish to communicate with the Quality & Safety Advisory committee on any aspect of patient safety please contact us at: [safety@coa.ie](mailto:safety@coa.ie). Dr. Gerry Fitzpatrick chair QSA committee CAI.