



Upper Airway Endoscopy during COVID-19



Compendium of national and international clinical guidelines and publications

Recommendations for the use of flexible single-use and video nasoendoscopes during the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered nasal endoscopy and laryngoscopy practices worldwide. With COVID-19 affecting both the volume of patients and their management, there is a greater focus on infection prevention and control and the benefits of single-use and video-supported devices have been reflected in national and international guidelines. Read about the latest evidence here.

A Graduated Return to Elective ENT Within the COVID-19 Pandemic (ENT UK, 2020a)

"Disposable nasoendoscopes should be considered for use out-of-hours to ensure safety and minimise risk of cross-infection."

"... maintain reasonable distance... video-endoscope with remote screen is likely to be safest."

Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGPs) within the ENT clinic (ENT UK, 2020b)

"Nasal and/or laryngeal endoscopy should, if possible, be observed on a separate video screen to allow the operator to maintain distance between himself/herself and the patient."

"Single-use endoscopes are disposable and do not need decontamination."

Moving Forward with Dysphagia Care: Implementing Strategies during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond (Fritz et al., 2020)

"Disposable laryngoscopes could be considered"

Exiting the pandemic: guidance for resuming ENT services (ENT UK, 2020c)

"Departments to consider need for updating equipment, e.g... video-nasoendoscopes to increase distance between patient and clinician and to enable accurate recording of findings to minimise repetition."

"Departments will need to ensure facilities and equipment (e.g. video-nasoendoscopes suitable for use out-of-hours) are available"

Nasal endoscopy and laryngoscopy examination of ENT patients (ENT UK, 2020d)

"Endoscopy should be carried out by video monitoring rather than use of eye-piece.."

“ Good for emergency & on call use; easy to use, always ready, plug & play ”

Dr Marcus Choo
Kingsbridge Private Hospital

BLA & ENT UK Guidelines (Endorsed by RCSLT): A Graduated Return to Elective Activities for Laryngology within the Covid-19 Pandemic (RCSLT, 2020a)

"Single-use endoscopes (e.g. Ambu,...) have been increasingly used for emergency and ward-based activity..."

"Digital tools such as portable monitors for single-use endoscopy allow visual communication with supervising consultants in a way that cannot be surpassed. As well as forming an essential part of the clinical record, the data provides for ready teaching and training material when appropriately anonymized and non-patient identifiable."

RCSLT GUIDANCE: Speech and language therapist-led endoscopic procedures in the COVID-19 pandemic (RCSLT, 2020b)

"...consideration should be given to the use of disposable nasendoscopy equipment, including the nasendoscope."

Safety checklist: "...video monitoring and recording available?"

Return to Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery Clinic Practice During the COVID-19 Pandemic Recommendations from the CSO-HNS Taskforce (AAOHN, 2020; Canadian Society of Otolaryngology, 2020)

"If available, a video system rather than direct visualisation through endoscope eye-piece may be considered to keep examiner's face away from patient"

"Videotaping procedures with appropriate permissions may be used for teaching purposes outside the operating room."

Nasal, pharyngeal and laryngeal endoscopy procedures during COVID-19 pandemic: available recommendations from national and international societies (De Luca et al., 2020)

"...all societies recommended performing endoscopy using a monitor without directly viewing through the eye-piece."

Clinical evidence-based review and recommendations of aerosol generating medical procedures in otolaryngology – head and neck surgery during the COVID- 19 pandemic (Thamboo et al., 2020)

"We ...recommend keeping as much distance from the patient by using video endoscopy instead of the eye-piece."

An update on COVID-19 for the otorhinolaryngologist - a Brazilian Association of Otolaryngology and Cervicofacial Surgery (ABORL-CCF) Position Statement (Lavinsky et al., 2020)

"The endoscopy should, if possible, be performed with video documentation to maintain some distance from the patient; it is recommended to avoid direct viewing through the optical system ..."

COVID-19 pandemic: Effects and evidence-based recommendations for otolaryngology and head and neck surgery practice (Kowalski et al., 2020)

"All airway management tools must be disposable and available..."

Safety Recommendations for Evaluation and Surgery of the Head and Neck during the COVID-19 Pandemic (Givi et al., 2020)

"If a video screen is available to project the examination, it should be used to keep the patient's and healthcare worker's faces apart."

"Disposable endoscopes may be considered."



“ No need for decontamination; easy to use

Video recording facility in acute setting is invaluable avoiding repeat endoscopies by different team members ”

Dr Alessandro Panarese
Royal Liverpool Hospital



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