

Surgical Airways

A Last Resort

Richard Morris
Department of Anaesthesia
St. George Hospital

www.simcentral.com.au

The Goals

- In order of importance are:
- Oxygenation
- Ventilation
- Airway Protection

The Options

- Plan A

Transtracheal jet ventilation by cannula

- Plan B

Percutaneous Seldinger Minitracheostomy

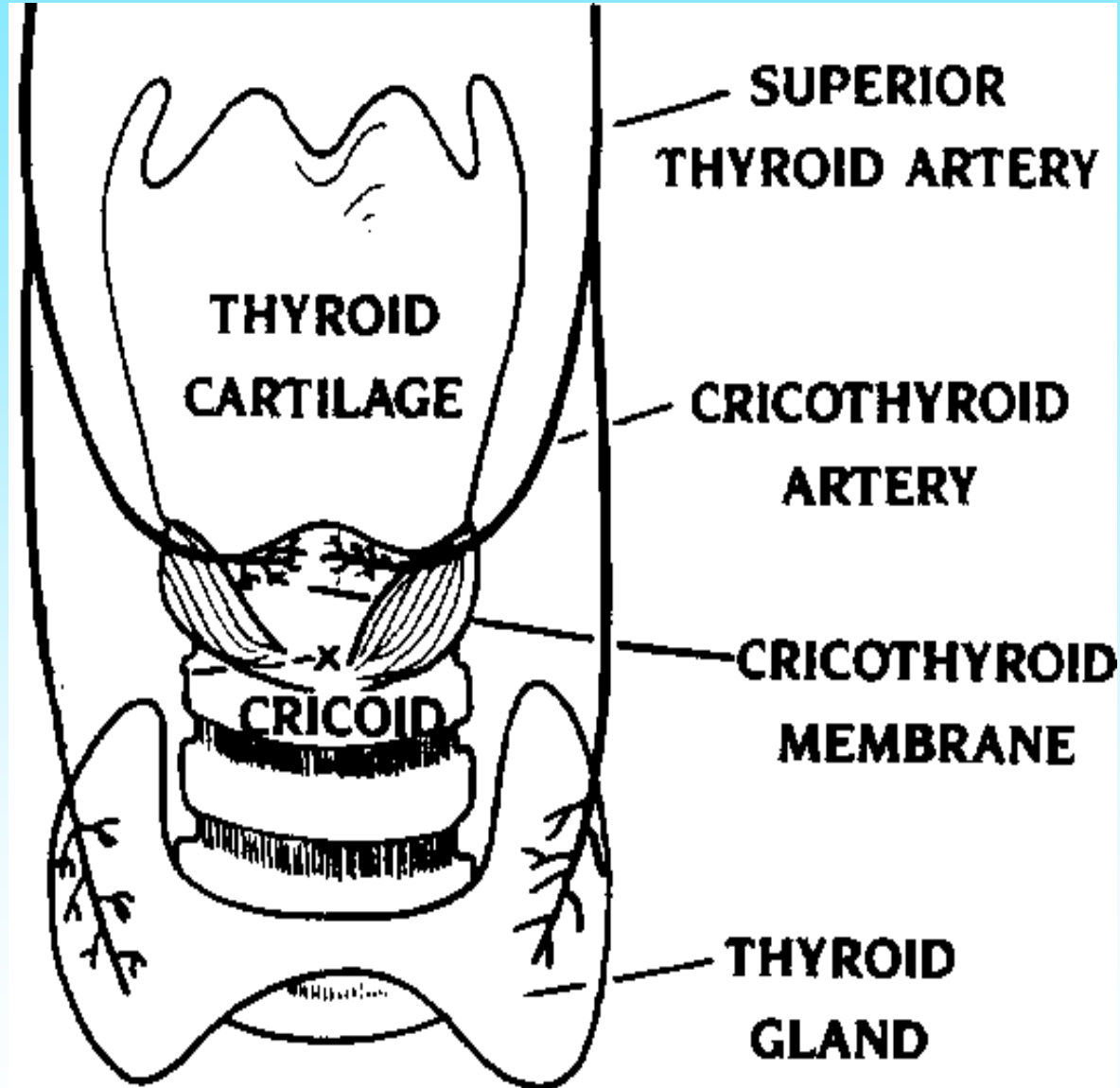
- Plan C

Surgical Cricothyroidostomy

The Complications

- Damage to larynx & trachea
- Damage to surrounding structures
- Subcutaneous emphysema
- Barotrauma & pneumothorax
- High incidence of 5 - 30%

The Anatomy



Plan A - The Cannula

- Insert angling it towards the feet.
- Check position by aspirating.
- Monitor carefully for kinking and extravasation.
- Use rigid low compliance tubing with a vent. [Enk or giving set + green tubing]
- Do not use anaesthetic circuit or self inflating bag.

Plan B - The Seldinger Trach

- Seldinger guide wire technique.
- A small cuffed or uncuffed tracheotomy tube with a dilator.
- Lay out components to get organised.
- Can attach a normal breathing circuit.

Plan C - Cricothyroidotomy

- Horizontal incision in cricothyroid membrane.
- Dilate and pass small cuffed ETT over a bougie.
- Connect a normal circuit

Making a Decision

- Consider the priorities for this patient.
 - Immediate
 - Medium term
- Assess your skills and resources
- Get on with it. Time is not on your side!