Topical anaesthesia for the Airway
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Airway: Innervation

Lignocaine preparations

1. Nose: LA + vasoconstrictor

Our way of doing it

- Co-phenylecaine 10 - 15 sprays to the more patent nostril & 5 sprays to the other
- 2ml of 2% lignocaine gel to the chosen nostril

Alternative techniques

- Nebulise with 3-4 ml of 4% lignocaine (instruct to breathe through nose if nasal intubation is planned)
- Xylocaine spray to chosen nostril

2. Oropharynx: Abolish gag reflex

- First, gargle with 5-6ml of 2% lignocaine gel
- Then, spray 10ml of 1% lignocaine aerosol into back of mouth
- O2 flow rate through green tubing @ 10L/min
- Note: this is a 'No needle' technique!

- Bilateral superior laryngeal nerve block with 1.5ml of 1% lignocaine
  (A 23G needle is walked off greater cornu of hyoid and directed inferiorly)

3. Glottis & Trachea

- Spray 2ml of 4% lignocaine on to the vocal cords via epiglottal catheter
- If strong cough present, repeat as above
- 2ml of 4% lignocaine spray into the trachea and reanesth.

- Trans tracheal block
  - via cricothyroid membrane puncture with 25G cannula
  - Confirm tracheal position, then inject 1.5-2 ml of 4% lignocaine

Maximum Lignocaine dose = 9 mg/kg