

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

BLS

TREATMENT PROTOCOL

S-121

AIRWAY OBSTRUCTION

ALS

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For conscious patient	If patient becomes unconscious or has
 Reassure, encourage coughing 	decreasing LOC
• O ₂ PRN	 Direct or video laryngoscopy and Magill forceps, MR PRN
For inadequate air exchange Airway maneuvers (AHA)	 Capnography PRN
 Abdominal thrusts 	Once obstruction is removed
• Use chest thrusts in obese or pregnant patients	Monitor/EKG IV/IO
If patient becomes unconscious or is found unconscious	
• Begin CPR	
 Once obstruction is removed Ventilate with high-flow O₂ PRN O₂ saturation 	
Treat per Respiratory Distress Protocol (S-136)	

Note: If unable to ventilate effectively, transport immediately while continuing CPR (unconscious patient)