Airway maintenance, & bag mask ventilation

Local anaesthesia of the upper airway

Simple measures:
1. Examination & removal of foreign bodies
2. Chin lift & jaw thrust
- Flexion of head & extension of the neck (former is the more important manoeuvre)

Causes of upper airway obstruction:
- Large tonsils, large tongue, small mandible, large adenoids
- Tonsillitis, peritonsillar abscess, retropharyngeal abscess, pretracheal abscess, epiglottitis, RSV laryngitis, Ludwig’s angina
- Asthma
- Cystic fibrosis, angioedema, laryngospasm
- Neck masses, foreign bodies, burns, haematoma

Nasopharyngeal airway
- Can be inserted via either nostril to relieve obstruction caused by soft palate & tongue
- Insertion too far may stimulate gag reflex

Oropharyngeal airway
- Guedel airway

Techniques

- Bag valve mask unit is a self-inflating bag with a non-rebreathing valve that can be attached to a facemask allowing air or oxygen to be delivered to a patient
- Attachment of a reservoir with at least the volume of the bag and an oxygen flow rate of at least the minute volume of the patient allows 100% oxygen to be delivered.