

i-gel: The New Revolutionary Single-Use Supraglottic Airway from Intersurgical

The **i-gel** is a novel and innovative supraglottic airway management device, made of a medical grade thermoplastic elastomer, which is soft, gel-like and transparent.

The **i-gel** is designed to create a non-inflatable anatomical seal of the perilaryngeal structures whilst avoiding compression trauma.

BACKGROUND

The device has been developed after extensive literature searches related to airway devices dating back as far as the eighteenth century. Fresh cadaveric neck dissections, X-rays, CT and MRI imaging data were all utilised in order to ensure the **i-gel**'s shape, softness and contours accurately mirror those of the pharyngeal, laryngeal and perilaryngeal framework.

The **i-gel** is a truly anatomical device achieving a mirrored impression of those structures without causing multidirectional forces of compression or displacement trauma to the tissues and structures in the vicinity.

i-gel gets its name from the soft gel-like material from which it is made. It is the innovative application of this material that has enabled the development of a unique non-inflatable cuff. This key feature means insertion of i-gel is easy, rapid and consistently reliable.

i-gel is also incredibly easy to use. A proficient user can achieve insertion of the **i-gel** in less than 5 seconds. With no inflatable cuff, **i-gel** provides a safe and rapid airway management solution.

APPLICATIONS

i-gel is designed for use in securing and maintaining a patent airway in routine and emergency anaesthetics for operations of fasted patients during spontaneous or Intermittent

Positive Pressure Ventilation (IPPV). It incorporates a number of important features in addition to the non-inflatable cuff, which translate into genuine benefits for both clinician and patient. This includes a gastric channel to improve and enhance patient safety, an integral bite block to reduce the possibility of airway channel occlusion and a buccal cavity stabiliser to aid insertion and eliminate the potential for rotation.

The innovation does not end with the product itself. **i-gel** is supplied in a unique colour-coded polypropylene 'cage pack'. This revolutionary packaging protects the **i-gel** in transit and ensures it maintains its unique anatomical shape.

We invite you to come and see the results of this work at Euroanaesthesia 2007 in Munich on Stand 20 and experience **i-gel** for yourself – airway management has evolved.

