

Lightning Learning: Oxygen Delivery Devices

STOP!

NASAL CANNULAE: low flow O₂ delivery device (0.5-6 L/min).

Higher flows (>4 L/min) make it uncomfortable for the patient.

VENTURI MASK: designed to entrain a set amount of O₂ and air, which combine to produce a set flow of O₂ (the % stated on the venturi).

It is **NOT the L/min** stated on the venturi that is delivered to the patient.

NON-REBREATHER MASK: only use flows 10-15 L/min.

If lower O₂ flows are used the bag can deflate during inspiration; a lower concentration of O₂ will be delivered and the patient can re-breathe CO₂.

LOOK

NASAL CANNULAE: for patients that require low flow O₂ to maintain saturations.

More comfortable than a mask – does not restrict vision or mouth.

VENTURI MASK: for patients that required a fixed amount of O₂, e.g. COPD where too much O₂ can be dangerous.

Makes weaning O₂ easier – the venturi can be changed to reduce O₂ in a stepwise way.

NON-REBREATHER MASK: for patients with low O₂ saturations requiring high flow rates.

Do not use long term as can cause complications such as O₂ toxicity and reabsorption atelectasis.

LEARN

Guideline for Oxygen Administration (UHL)

<https://bit.ly/3IGJe80>

Emergency Oxygen Use in Adults (BTS)

<https://bit.ly/3bhAgtb>

