

## Overview of Supraglottic Airways

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Simplified classification: Based upon sealing site

- Peri-laryngeal sealing
  - Simple – e.g LMA, i-gel, iLMA
    - Extended e.g.LMA supreme
  - Directional e.g. ProSeal
- Base of tongue sealing
  - With oesophageal cuffs e.g. Combitube, LT, SLT.
  - Without oesophageal cuff e.g.CobraPLA™
  - SLIPA™

Aspiration protection mechanisms:

- *Obstruction*
  - Lower in oesophagus more effective than at entrance.
  - Inflatable more effective than fixed volume
  - Combitube, LTS > ProSeal, LMA > igel, SLIPA
    - *Drainage*
  - Effectiveness is dependent upon effective obstruction mechanism
  - Combitube, LTS > ProSeal > igel
    - *Storage*
  - Effectiveness dependent upon storage capacity – independent of obstruction effect
  - SLIPA >> Combitube, LTS > ProSeal, LMA, igel

Access to the trachea

<b>Good</b>	<b>Fairly good</b>	<b>Poor</b>
iLMA	ProSeal	Combitube
Air Q	LMA supreme	LT, LTS
LMA, igel	Cobra	SLIPA™

### Strategy to achieve adequate ventilation when there is limited seal pressure

- Pressure support ventilation
- Pressure controlled ventilation
- Choice of optimal I:E ratio is 1:1