

Letter to Editor

Pediatric Rendell Baker Soucek Mask: A Saviour for Ventilation in a Patient with Difficult Mask Ventilation: Letter to Editor

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Effective mask ventilation is crucial during anesthesia induction. However, facial swellings can impede the ability to achieve a proper seal with standard face masks, posing considerable difficulties. This case highlights the use of the Rendell-Baker-Soucek mask, typically designed for pediatric patients, as an alternative in an adult with complex facial anatomy.¹⁻³

A 57-year-old male presented with a progressively enlarging non-tender facial swelling measuring 5 x 3 cm on the left cheek (Figure 1). The patient was scheduled for a wide excision of the cyst under general anesthesia. General physical, systemic, and airway examination of the patient was conducted. The airway examination showed mouth Opening > 3FB, Mallampati Score Grade 3, multiple missing teeth, and presence of buck teeth. On the left cheek huge swelling of 5x3 cm was noted. Challenge in mask ventilation was anticipated due to the inability to obtain a proper seal with standard face masks because of huge facial swelling. Because of anticipated difficulty the anesthesia team opted for a pediatric-size Rendell Baker Soucek (RBS) mask. After preoxygenation, effective ventilation was confirmed, for safe induction with intravenous agents. Following intravenous induction, the mask was placed intraorally against the gingiva to enhance the seal. After assessment of ventilation, a neuromuscular agent was administered for endotracheal intubation.

Facial swellings can complicate mask ventilation. The RBS mask with its design minimizing dead space offers an alternative for achieving a seal in such scenarios. The use of the RBS mask, particularly when adapted for intraoral placement, can be an effective strategy for mask ventilation in patients with facial swellings. This case emphasizes the need for flexibility and innovation in airway management approaches.



Figure 1. Figure showing mask ventilation with RBS mask in patient with swelling cheek

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Authors' Contribution

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