

CHOKING / FOREIGN BODY AIRWAY OBSTRUCTION

History:

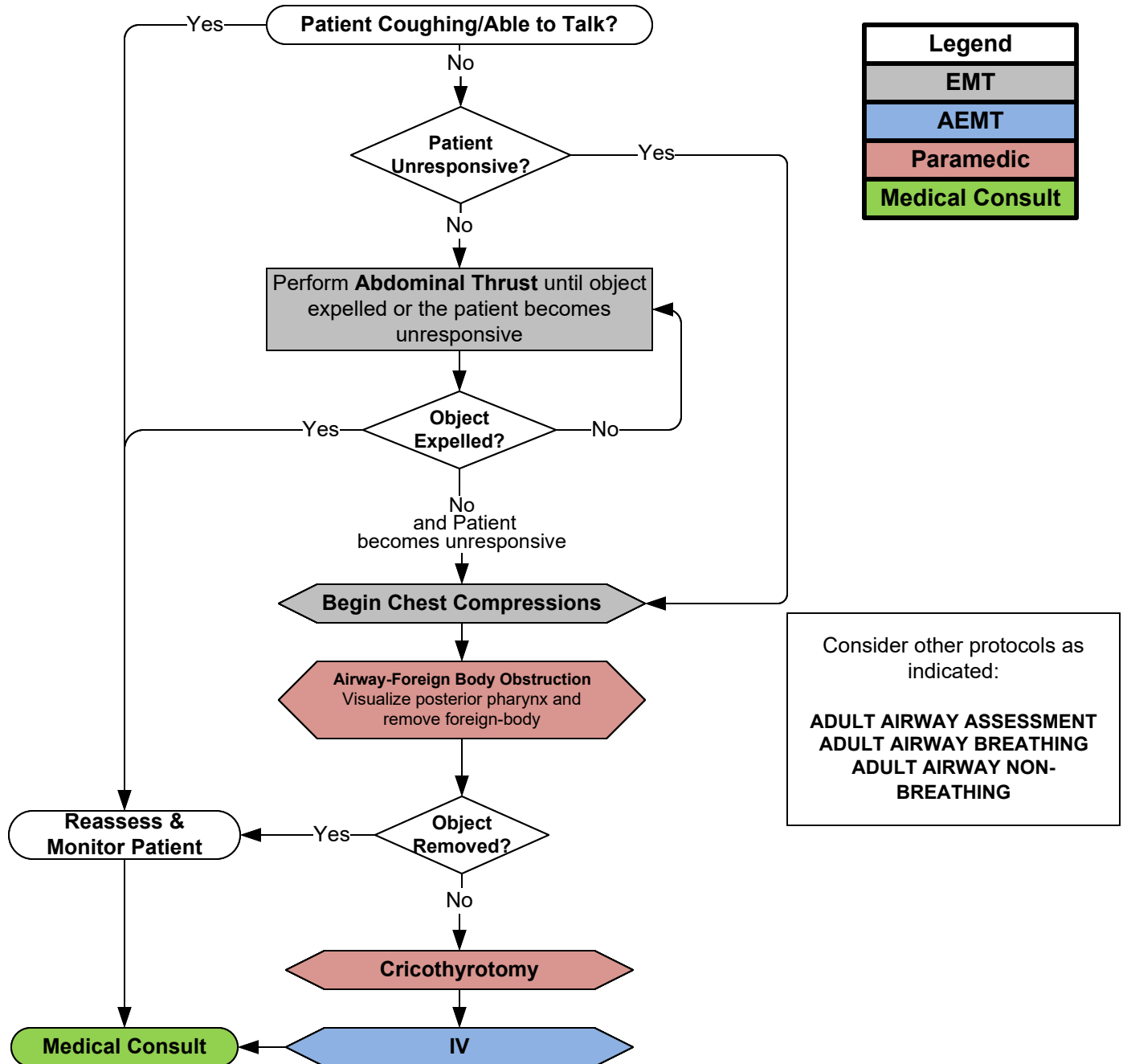
- Talking/laughing while eating
- Alcohol or sedative use
- Poor dentition
- Impaired swallow or cough reflex

Signs and Symptoms:

- Sudden inability to talk
- Clutching throat (universal choking sign)
- Coughing or gagging
- Attempts at coughing are quiet or silent
- Cyanosis

Differential:

- Anaphylaxis
- Complete vs. partial airway obstruction



Pearls:

- Do not interfere with a mild obstruction, allow the patient to clear their airway by coughing.
- Abdominal thrusts should be used in rapid sequence until the obstruction is relieved or the patient becomes unresponsive.
- Chest thrusts should be used in obese patients and in patients who are in the late stages of pregnancy.