

NASG SAFETY



Keeping Women Safe in the NASG

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Keeping Women Safe in the NASG

This unit is designed for trainees at the referral hospital level to remind them of the key principles for preventing harm and keeping women safe while the NASG is being used.



OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this unit trainees should know:

1. That the NASG should not be opened once applied until the patient has been stable for 2 hours and received definitive treatment
2. That only one person should apply NASG segments #4, #5, and #6
3. That someone should stay with an unconscious woman to explain the NASG to her when she regains consciousness
4. What to do if a woman has trouble breathing or reduced urine output
5. What to do if a patient's vital signs become unstable during removal
6. The Rule of 20

To train this unit you may want to have:

- The [powerpoint presentations](#) for this unit
- A downloaded copy of [Saving Mothers' Lives: The NASG Training Video](#)
- And any other regular training materials you use

Note: The following material is written so that it may be given directly to trainees if the trainer wishes to give printed materials as trainee handouts or to use the materials for didactic or practicum.



Keeping Women Safe in the NASG

There are certain key points to remember when caring for a woman in the NASG. Like any other first-aid device, the NASG must be used properly to benefit the patient. If used incorrectly, the woman's health may be compromised. In order to keep a woman safe while using the NASG, please keep the following in mind:

During Application

1

Two people can apply the leg segment pairs #1, #2, and #3 (each person applying to one leg at the same time), but only one person should apply the pelvic and abdominal segments #4, #5, and #6.



Two people can apply the leg segment pairs #1, #2, and #3



Only one person should apply the pelvic and abdominal segments #4, #5, and #6



During Treatment

2

Women in shock should have one-to-one nursing care.



Women in shock should have one-to-one nursing care

3

Monitor urine output. If the woman is not producing 30mL of urine per hour, the abdominal segment #6 might be too tight; loosen it slightly.

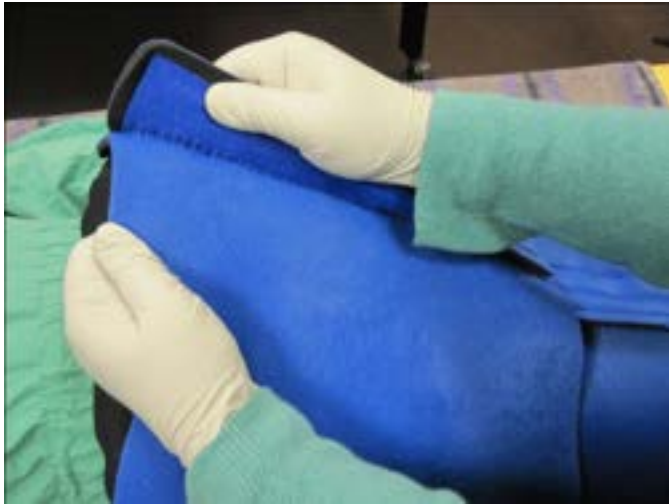


If the woman is not producing 30mL of urine per hour, the abdominal segment might be too tight



4

If the woman has difficulty breathing, slightly loosen the abdominal segment #6.



If the woman has difficulty breathing, slightly loosen the abdominal segment #6



To loosen, gently open the segment while holding the bottom layer in place





Re-secure the Velcro slightly further out along the segment



Re-secure the Velcro and ask the patient to take a deep breath

During Vaginal Procedures

5

If a woman needs a vaginal procedure, leave the whole NASG in place.



The whole NASG remains in place during vaginal procedures



During Surgery

6

If the woman needs surgery, open only the abdominal and pelvic segments. Open those segments immediately before the first incision. Prepare the anesthesiologist or the anesthetist that her blood pressure may drop when segments #5 and #6 are opened and to prepare to give boluses of IV fluids.



Open only the abdominal and pelvic segments immediately before the first incision

7

After surgery, close segments #4, #5, and #6. Keep the NASG in place until the woman has been stable for 2 hours.



Close segments #4, #5 and #6 immediately after surgery



During Removal

8

Only remove the NASG when the woman's vital signs have been stable for 2 hours with blood loss of <50mL/hour.



Only remove the NASG when the woman's vital signs have been stable for two hours



Take vital signs again before beginning removal

9

Always start removal at the ankle.

Always allow 15 minutes between opening segment pairs.



Always start removal at the ankles



10

Never open the abdominal segments #5 and #6 first.



Never open the abdominal segments #5 and #6 first

11

If at any time during removal, the blood pressure drops by 20 mmHg, or the pulse increases by 20 beats per minute (BPM), (the Rule of 20), rapidly reapply all segments and re-examine the patient for additional sources of bleeding.



RULE OF 20:
if the blood pressure drops by 20 mmHg, or the pulse increases by 20 BPM, reapply all segments



Knowledge Assessment

Trainees should be able to answer the following questions. See the next page for correct answers. Review any incorrect responses with trainees to ensure they have understood the material.

1. Once the NASG is applied, it is safe to open the abdominal segments #5 and #6 every once in a while. **(True/False)**
2. Someone should stay with an unconscious woman to explain the NASG when she wakes up. **(True/False)**
3. How many people should apply segments #4, #5 and #6? _____ (Write the number in the space)
4. If the woman has trouble breathing or reduced urine output what segment or segments may be loosened?
 - a. The abdominal segment (#6)
 - b. The ankle segment (#1)
 - c. The segment above the knee (#3)
 - d. None of the segments may be loosened.
 - e. All of the above
5. During removal, what should be done if the blood pressure drops by 20 mmHg or more OR the pulse rises by 20 beats per minute or more?
 - a. Close all the segments
 - b. Give more IV fluid
 - c. Assume the woman is still bleeding
 - d. Examine the woman to treat continuing blood loss
 - e. All of the above



Knowledge Answers

1. Once the NASG is applied, it is safe to open the abdominal segments #5 and #6 every once in a while. (True/False)

Answer: False. The abdominal segments should never be opened first, unless the woman is having surgery and the anesthesiologist/anesthetist is prepared to give IV fluid boluses if the BP drops.

2. Someone should stay with an unconscious woman to explain the NASG when she wakes up. (True/False)

Answer: True. A health worker, relative, or friend should stay with an unconscious woman so they can explain the NASG to her when she wakes up so she doesn't get scared and take it off.

3. How many people should apply segments #4, #5 and #6? _____ (Write the number in the space)

Answer: "1." Only 1 person should apply segments #4, #5, and #6. In fact any single segment should be applied by just one person, although two people may work together on applying the segment pairs on the legs.

4. If the woman has trouble breathing or reduced urine output what segment or segments may be loosened slightly?
- a. The abdominal segment (#6)
 - b. The ankle segment (#1)
 - c. The segment above the knee (#3)
 - d. None of the segments may be loosened.
 - e. All of the above

Answer: a. The abdominal segments (#5 and #6)

5. During removal, what should be done if the blood pressure drops by 20 mmHg or more OR the pulse rises by 20 beats per minute or more?
- a. Close all the segments
 - b. Give more IV fluid
 - c. Assume the woman is still bleeding
 - d. Examine the woman to treat continuing blood loss
 - e. All of the above

Answer: e. All of the above

