

# Laryngeal mask airway

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The laryngeal mask airway (LMA) is a wide-bore airway with an inflatable cuff at the distal end, which forms a seal in the pharynx around the laryngeal inlet. Provided the laryngotracheal airway is clear, the LMA provides a clear and secure airway. The technique can easily be learnt by non-anaesthetists and secures an airway in most cases. It comes in a range of sizes covering infants to large adults. It is particularly useful in cases of difficult intubation where mouth opening is unimpeded® ( Figure 52.47 ). A newer variation of this is the i-gel which replaces the inflatable cuff with a rim that conforms to the anatomical shape around the laryngeal inlet. Laryngeal mask airway

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