

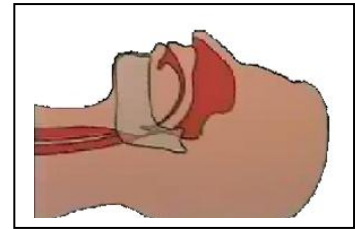
SmartMan[®]

Jaw Thrust

When It Should Be Used

The jaw thrust is used to open the airway if you suspect a cervical spine injury such as when there is a collapse with a head injury, or from diving into shallow water. The 2005 AHA CPR Guidelines say:

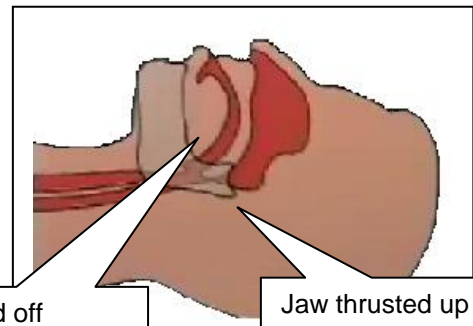
Approximately 2% of victims with blunt trauma have a spinal injury, and this risk is tripled if the victim has a craniofacial injury, a Glasgow Coma Scale score of <8, or both. If a healthcare provider suspects a cervical spine injury, open the airway using a jaw thrust without head extension (Class IIb).



CLOSED AIRWAY
with relaxed jaw

How To Perform the Jaw Thrust

- With the victim on his or her back, the head should be in the neutral position (not tilted forward or back).
- Place the fingers behind the angles of the patient's lower jaw and move the jaw upward. At the same time use your thumbs to open the mouth slightly.
- When done properly this will open the airway and **does not move the cervical spine.**



Tongue lifted off
palate. Airway opened

Jaw thrusting up

OPEN AIRWAY
tongue lifted
with jaw thrust

Things to Watch For

If the jaw thrust has not moved the jaw upward far enough, there may be only a partial opening. In this case less air will go into the lungs.

Does It Work?

Research shows that the jaw thrust can be used to effectively open the airway, but it must be done properly.

The Jaw Thrust Maneuver alone significantly relieved the obstruction at the tongue base and epiglottis levels and increased the retroglossal airway. Lokman U, et al. Effectiveness of the Jaw-Thrust Maneuver in Opening the Airway: A Flexible Fiberoptic Endoscopic Study. Journal for Oto-Rhino-Laryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, Vol 67, No 1, 2005

SmartMan gives you real time feedback as you ventilate with the Jaw Thrust. If it has been performed correctly then ventilations can be performed easily with adequate volumes. If the airway is not open there will be resistance and low or no volume will go into the lungs.

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TRAINING

