Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office

“Differential Diagnosis of Respiratory Distress”

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Patients suffering from respiratory distress usually remain conscious throughout the episode. This gives you the advantage to ask the patient about similar previous episodes.

Once the patient loses consciousness, management of the emergency follows the protocol for management of the unconscious patient.

Differential Dx of respiratory distress

• Airway obstruction
  – Crowing
  – No breath sounds
• Hyperventilation
• Asthma
• Heart Failure

Differential Dx of respiratory distress

• Airway obstruction
• Hyperventilation
• Asthma
• Heart Failure
Differential Dx of respiratory distress

- Airway obstruction
- Hyperventilation
- Asthma
  - History
  - Patient educated about disease
- Heart Failure

QUESTIONS?