

Operative care considerations¹

Preoperative considerations

- Upper airway obstruction
- Respiratory dysfunction
- Spinal cord compression
- Intubation/extubation planning

Intraoperative considerations

- Risks/benefits of mask ventilation or awake fiber optic induction with spontaneous ventilation
- Neurophysiological monitoring
- Body positioning (head and neck should be carefully maintained in the neutral position such that clavicles are aligned with the external auditory meatus)

Postoperative considerations

- Early extubation when possible
- Close monitoring for airway and pulmonary edema
- Monitoring need for reintubation
- Availability of emergency tracheostomy at any time
- Extubation only after patient is fully awake and has full return of motor power