



Victorian Consultative Council on Anaesthetic Mortality and Morbidity

ALERT: Risk of airway obstruction from retained swabs and throat packs

Council has recently reviewed a small number of cases in which swabs and/or throat packs have not been removed prior to emergence from anaesthesia after dental, oral, maxillofacial or ENT procedures. It is strongly recommended that in all such surgery, all swabs and throat packs must be included in the surgical count and therefore confirmed as accounted for, prior to emergence from anaesthesia.