Rapid sequence intubation (RSI) is a technique that is used when rapid control of the airway is needed as a precaution for patients that may have a 'full stomach' or other risks of pulmonary aspiration.

The case presented here highlights the utility/feasibility of the SEADUC (EM Innovations, Galloway, OH) manual suction unit in clearing a contaminated airway during rapid sequence intubation. The case also highlights the importance of intubation in a patient with declining mental status in the prehospital environment. A 75-year-old woman suffered a head injury, and a helicopter emergency medical service team staffed with a physician and nurse was tasked with retrieval and transfer back to the tertiary care center. As the flight team rendezvoused with ground emergency medical services and the patient, a decision to intubate was made because of the patient's declining mental status and inability to protect her own airway. While in preparation for intubation, it was noted that the ambulance's electrical suction system was not working, and the flight crew had to resort to a SEADUC manual suction unit to clear the patient's airway of contaminants. The patient's airway was cleared, and she was successfully intubated and transported to a tertiary care center where the patient underwent an emergent neurosurgery procedure/decompression and was discharged home a few weeks later [1)]

1)
Stampfl M, Tillman D, Borelli N, Bandara T, Cathers A. Rapid Sequence Intubation Using the SEADUC Manual Suction Unit in a Contaminated Airway. Air Med J. 2023 Jul-Aug;42(4):296-299. doi: 10.1016/j.amj.2023.03.007. Epub 2023 Apr 8. PMID: 37356893.