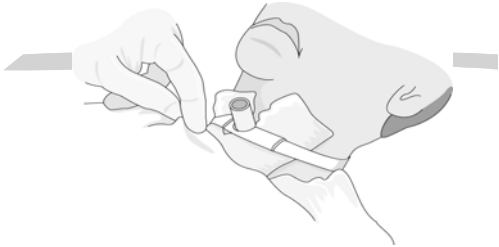


Tracheostomy Care

The Nurse Aide's Role



What is a tracheostomy

- A surgically created opening (stoma) in the patient's trachea just below the cricoid notch.
- Protective upper airway is bypassed, causing greater risks for _____.
- Tracheostomy tubes consist of a neckplate which is inserted with an obturator, and an inner cannula which is removed and cleaned at least q8h.

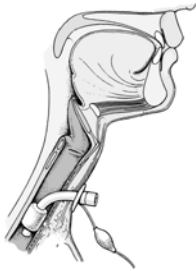


Observations you need to make

- The neck ties insert through slots on each side of neckplate to hold the outer cannula in place.
- Only one finger should fit under ties.
- Cut ties can become frayed/aspirated.
- Foam ties that velcro are preferred over twill type.
- You may be asked to assist nurse to change the neck ties. To assist:
- Don clean gloves and hold down the neckplate (outer cannula) to avoid extubation if patient coughs..



More Observations



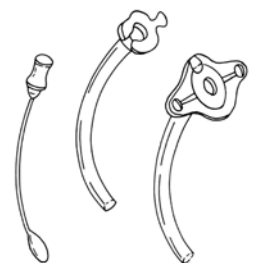
- **Notify the nurse immediately if:**
 - the tube becomes dislodged.
 - changes in respiratory rate, depth and quality occur.
 - changes in mental status.
 - Obtain a pulse ox.
 - difficulty breathing.
 - the patient needs suctioning.
 - cyanosis occurs
- **If the patient will be drinking/eating**
 - Make sure cuff is inflated
 - If the patient can speak, cuff needs more air.

Trache Care (your role) be sure to check facility policy



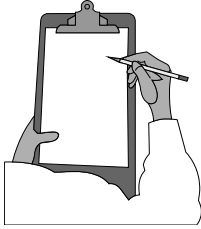
- You may remove precut nonraveling gauze around tracheostomy with clean gloves.
- You may suction oral cavity and secretions external to the cannula.
- cleanse around stoma with soap and water.

Your role in trache care (con't)



- You may apply new gauze around neckplate utilizing clean technique.
- Avoid using powders, sprays, or shaving cream around the tube.
- Avoid allowing water to enter the opening during bathing
- Be sure obturator is taped to HOB
- If patient is being weaned from tube it may be capped. Make sure cuff is deflated.

Documentation what to report to the nurse



- **Descriptions of secretions:**
- Thick (tenacious)
- Watery (thin)
- Scant- small amounts.
- Copious (large amounts)
- Frothy (with bubbles)
- Color- clear, white, yellow, green, gray, brown, bloody.
- Odor
