

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

II-23 CARE OF THE PATIENT WITH TRACHEOSTOMY TUBE

1. Policy:
 - 1.1. To establish guidelines for the prehospital management of the patient with a tracheostomy tube. Care actions may include removal of dried secretions from the stoma and surrounding skin and suctioning through the tracheostomy.
2. Equipment needed:
 - 2.1. Disposable gloves, sterile gloves, and full face protection.
 - 2.2. Oxygen.
 - 2.3. Sterile water or sterile saline.
 - 2.4. Sterile 4X4's/
 - 2.5. Tracheostomy mask.
 - 2.6. Suction catheters of various sizes depending on the size of the tracheostomy tube.
 - 2.6.1. Sizes 10, 12, 14, 16 will accommodate most pediatric and adult patient.
 - 2.7. Properly operating suction unit.
3. Suctioning through the Tracheostomy Procedure:
 - 3.1. Put on gloves and full face protection.
 - 3.2. Pre oxygenate patient.
 - 3.3. Turn suction on and attach suction catheter to suction unit without removing catheter from package.
 - 3.4. Open bottle of sterile water or sterile saline.
 - 3.5. Put sterile glove on one hand and with the sterile gloved hand insert catheter through ET tube as far as it will go with suction off.
 - 3.6. Begin withdrawing catheter using rotary motion and intermittent suction.
 - 3.7. Clear suction catheter and suction tubing by inserting catheter into sterile water or sterile saline with suction in.
 - 3.8. Oxygenate patient again.
 - 3.9. Repeat procedure once if necessary:
 - 3.9.1. Suctioning more than twice at one time may induce hypoxia.
4. Removal of Dried Secretions from Tracheostomy Procedure:
 - 4.1. Put on gloves and full face protection:
 - 4.1.1. Suction patient as above if necessary.
 - 4.2. Monitor patient for need for removal of dried secretions from tracheostomy:
 - 4.2.1. Thick mucous build up in and around the tracheostomy tube may form a crust and/or a mucous plug.
 - 4.3. Remove soiled dressings if necessary:
 - 4.3.1. If soiled dressings are removed, change gloves prior to applying clean dressings.
 - 4.4. Use sterile water or sterile saline soaked 4X4's to cleanse around stoma site.
 - 4.5. Do not remove ties used to secure tracheostomy tube in place.
5. Documentation:
 - 5.1. Who attempted/performed task.
 - 5.2. PPE and equipment used.
 - 5.3. Indications for procedure.
 - 5.4. Any noted complications or undesired side effects.
 - 5.5. Were desired therapeutic effects attained?