

TRACHEOSTOMY EMERGENCIES

DISLODGE MENT (FALL OUT)

A. Tracheostomy tube has fallen out/out of place

- ⦿ Call 995 for an ambulance immediately and monitor patient's condition.

B. If patient,

- i. Experience breathlessness
- ii. SpO₂ drops below usual baseline
- ⦿ Cover the tracheostomy hole with gauze and tape all four sides.
- ⦿ If you are trained in manual ventilation (bagging), provide air to patient using a manual resuscitator bag and face mask.

HOW TO PREVENT DISLODGE MENT:

- ⦿ Ensure the space between the skin and tracheostomy holder is within one finger space.
- ⦿ Replace tracheostomy tube holder if the Velcro is not sticky.
- ⦿ Ensure that the ventilator tubing is not pulled when repositioning patient in bed or transferring patient out of bed (if applicable).

BLOCKAGE

A. Patient experience breathlessness

- i. SpO₂ drops below usual baseline
- ii. Unable to insert suction catheter
- iii. Resistance felt when performing manual ventilation (bagging)

- ⦿ Change inner cannula.
- ⦿ Re-insert suction catheter and perform manual bagging.
- ⦿ If resistance is felt when inserting suction catheter and/or during manual bagging, remove the tracheostomy tube (if you are confident).

**Note: If tracheostomy tube has a cuff balloon, remove air from the balloon port completely before removing the tracheostomy tube.*

- ⦿ Call 995 for an ambulance immediately and monitor patient's condition.

ii. If patient,

- i. Experience breathlessness
- ii. SpO₂ drops below usual baseline
- ⦿ Cover the tracheostomy hole with gauze and tape all four sides.
- ⦿ If you are trained in manual ventilation (bagging), provide air to patient using a manual resuscitator bag and face mask.

HOW TO PREVENT BLOCKAGE:

- ⦿ Perform regular suctioning based on patient's needs.
- ⦿ Ensure that secretion is easily removable. If secretion is very thick, please speak to the medical team.
- ⦿ Clean inner cannula at least three times a day.



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ALL ABOUT TRACHEOSTOMY

What is Tracheostomy?

Tracheostomy is a surgically-created hole in the neck below the vocal cords.

A tracheostomy tube is inserted through the opening to allow air passage into lungs when the patient cannot breathe on his/her own.

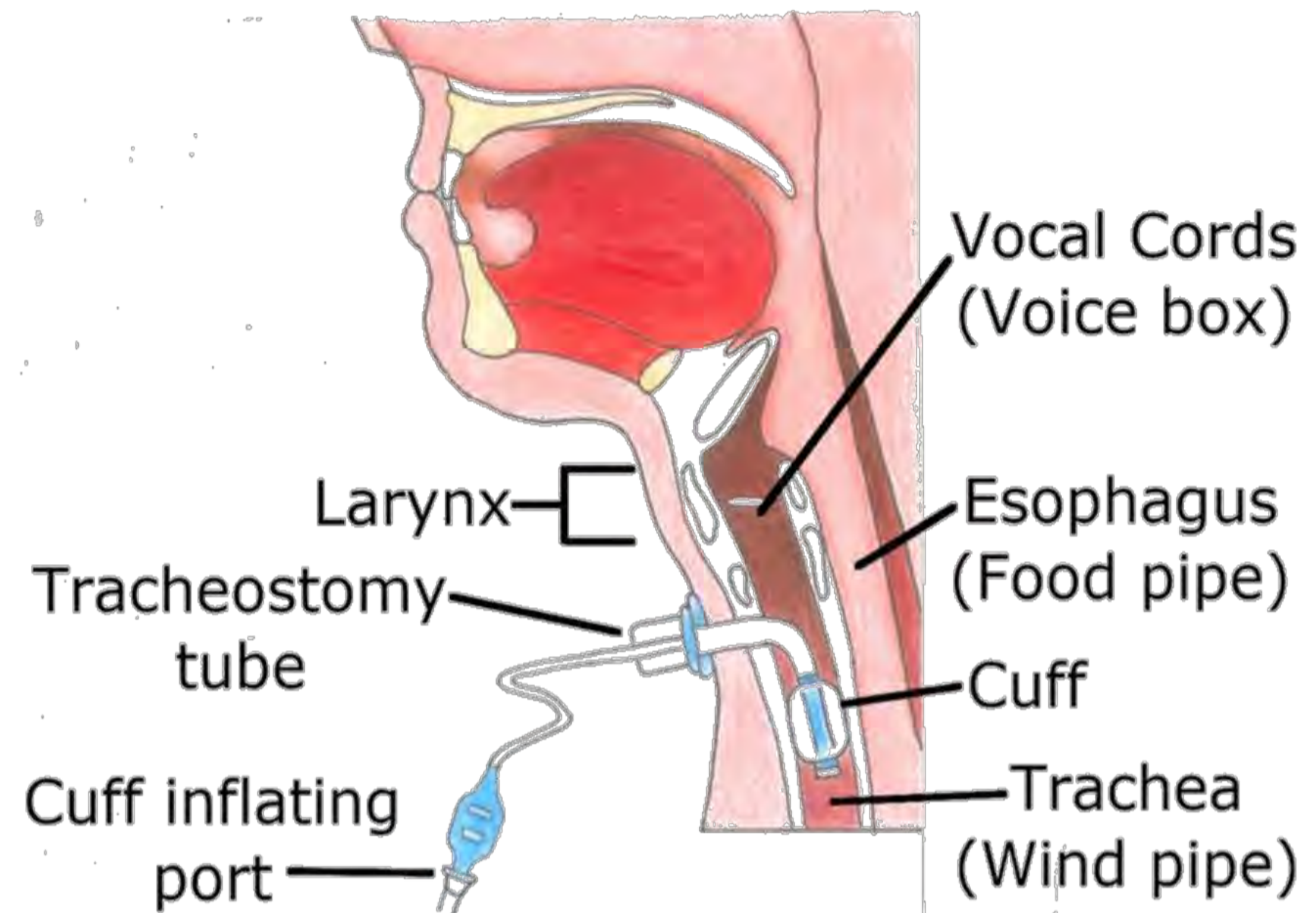


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Can I Eat With A Tracheostomy?

Tracheostomy tubes can affect the way you swallow. However, you might still be able to eat.

Please consult your physician or speech therapists.

Can I Talk With A Tracheostomy?

Sound is generated when air passes through the vocal cords. With tracheostomy, most of the air escapes through the tracheostomy tube. Lesser air passes through the vocal cords, making it harder to speak. However, you can still talk using finger occlusion, a speaking valve or through ventilator leak speech.

Please consult your physician or speech therapist to find out more about the methods above.



Can I Shower With A Tracheostomy?

Yes. You just need to take special precautions to prevent water from entering the tracheostomy.

You may consult your Occupational Therapist for further advice.



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