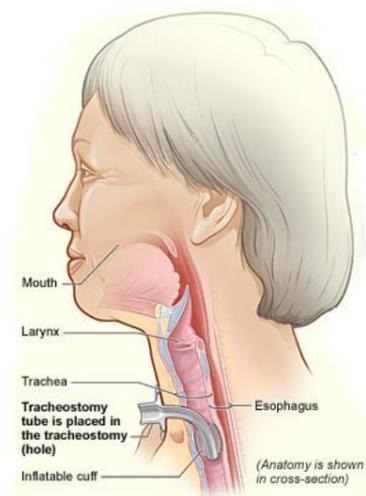


FACTS OF TRACHEOSTOMY CUFF

WHAT IS CUFF PRESSURE?

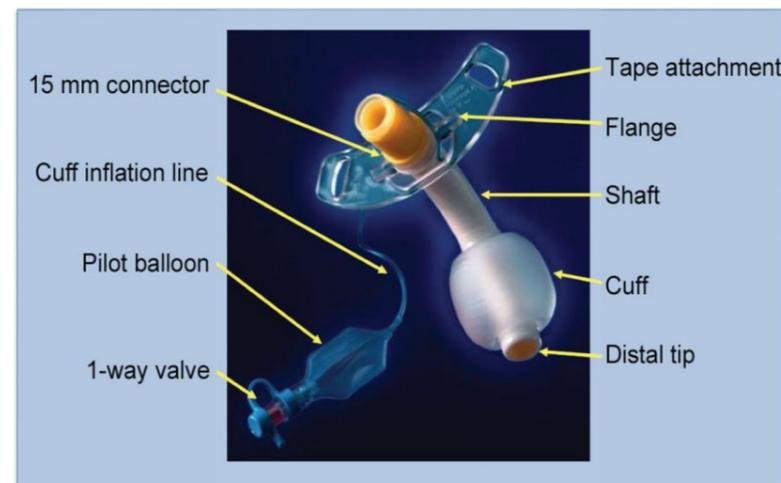
An endotracheal (ET) or tracheostomy cuff pressure is the ideal pressure or minimal occlusive volume is the lowest amount needed to seal the airway. (Lippincott 2016)



WHEN TO MEASURE...

- To check the cuff pressure at the beginning of each shift or PRN to keep the pressure within safe limits.

PARTS OF A TRACHEOSTOMY TUBE



REMEMBER.....

- Keep in mind that some patients require less pressure, whereas others require more pressure. Maintaining the cuff pressure at the lowest possible level helps minimize cuff-related problems.
- When measuring cuff pressure, keep the connection between the measuring device and the pilot balloon port tight to avoid an air leak that could compromise cuff pressure.
- Note the volume of air needed to inflate the cuff. A gradual increase in this volume indicates tracheal dilation or erosion. A sudden increase in volume indicates rupture of the cuff and requires immediate reintubation if the patient is being ventilated.

My cuff pressure is zero. What has happened?

- The cuff has ruptured, or the pilot balloon tube has been chewed through; either way cuff pressure is lost.

My cuff pressure is too high. What will happen?

- Acute tracheal rupture.



WHY CUFF PRESSURE?

- Inflated cuff prevents oropharyngeal secretions to leak around the stoma.
- It also reduce the risk of ventilator-associated pneumonia.
- Prevents aspiration in ventilator-dependent and spontaneously breathing patients.

DO YOU KNOW ?

- Safe to inflating the cuff to 20 to 25 mm Hg (20 to 25 cm H2O).
- Cuff pressure shouldn't exceed 25 mmHg (25 cm H2O)
- It is recommended to maintaining a cuff pressure lower than capillary perfusion pressure.(which is estimated to range from 25 to 30 mm Hg.)

FOLLOW

- Connect the pilot balloon to the gauge
- Depress the one way valve by pushing the two together
- Pressure can be adjusted using the gauge
- Note the pressure indicated on the gauge
- Disconnect
- Disinfect the manometer with 70% alcohol
- Document cuff pressure in Epic as per policy
- Notify appropriate physician if cuff will not maintain seal and requires repeated inflations.

REFERENCES

- Lippincott Nursing procedures,2015 ,7th edition , Wolters Kluwer Philadelphia.page No.750.
- Rashid Hospital core standards of care (adult)
- RH/NPP/017, Management of the Tracheostomy [Adult]2015