



Tracheostomy

Procedure Information Sheet

Introduction

Tracheostomy is an operation in which an opening is made through the neck skin into the wind pipe. A tube is inserted into the opening, through which breathing can continue.

Indication

- Upper airway obstruction
- Prolonged endotracheal intubation
- Aspiration pneumonia
- Airway protection

The Operation / Procedure

The operation is done under general or local anaesthesia. An opening is made into the wind pipe, and a tracheostomy tube is inserted to maintain patency of the opening enabling unobstructed breathing or sputum clearance.

Before the Operation / Procedure

- Inform your doctor of any medical condition and any medication you are taking. The medications may need to be adjusted as appropriate.
- 2. Intended benefits and expected outcome
 - 2.1 Relief of upper airway obstruction and protection of airway
 - 2.2 A tube is kept in the neck for breathing until normal airway is restored
 - 2.3 There is chance of failure to relieve problems and recurrence
- 3. Conditions that would not be benefited by the procedure
 - 3.1 Lower airway obstruction

After the Operation / Procedure

- 1. The wound usually heals in about two weeks
- 2. The tracheostomy tube needs regular cleansing and replacement
- 3. Speech difficulty will be encountered
- 4. Temporary swallowing problem usually resolves with time
- 5. Inform your doctor if there is excessive discharge or bleeding from the tracheostome
- 6. If you experience shortness of breath or tracheostomy tube dislodgement, please attend the nearby emergency department as soon as possible.

Patient's Label	
Patient Name:	
Hospital No:	
Episode No:	





Tracheostomy

Risk and Complication

- 1. There are always certain side effects and risks of complications of the procedure. Medical staff will take every preventive measure to reduce their likelihood.
- 2. Common Risks and Complications (>1% risk)
 - 2.1 Bleeding
 - 2.2 Infection
 - 2.3 Swallowing problem
 - 2.4 Speech problem
 - 2.5 Tracheostomy tube blockage and dislodgement causing asphyxia
 - 2.6 Surgical emphysema
- 3. Uncommon Risks with Serious Consequences (<1% risk)
 - 3.1 Apnea
 - 3.2 Tracheal stenosis
 - 3.3 Injury to other neck structures
 - 3.4 Pneumomediastinum and pneumothorax
 - 3.5 Tracheocutaneous fistula
 - 3.6 Erosion into large vessels causing fatal bleeding
 - 3.7 Erosion into esophagus causing aspiration
 - 3.8 Failed weaning of tracheostomy
 - 3.9 Death due to serious surgical and anaesthetic complications
- 4. Consequences of No Treatment
 - 4.1 Airway obstruction and death
 - 4.2 Prolonged intubation causing injury to trachea with resultant stenosis
 - 4.3 Aspiration and recurrent pneumonia

Alternative Treatment / Investigation

Endotracheal intubation

Disclaimer

This leaflet only provides general information pertaining to this operation / procedure. While common risks and complications are described, the list is not exhaustive, and the degree of risk could also vary between patients. Please contact your doctor for detailed information and specific enquiry.

Reference

Smart patient website by Hospital Authority: Tracheostomy (2/2020)

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Patient's Signature:	Date:	Patient's Label Patient Name: Hospital No: Episode No:	
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