

SKILLS: NEEDLE CRICOTHYROTOMY

Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Cert #** _____

Transtracheal catheter ventilation is a temporary emergency procedure to provide oxygenation when airway obstruction cannot be relieved by other methods.

A. Assessment/Treatment Indicators for the unconscious patient:

1. Total airway obstruction following unsuccessful attempts of BLS and ALS obstructed airway procedures.
2. Massive facial trauma in a patient who cannot be intubated by either oral or nasotracheal means.
3. Injury to the trachea/larynx in a patient who cannot adequately ventilated or intubated by either oral or nasotracheal means.
4. Airway obstruction due to infection.

B. Contraindications: NONE.

C. Possible Complications:

1. With the high pressure used during ventilation and the possibility of air entrapment, may produce a pneumothorax.
2. Hemorrhage may occur at the site of the needle insertion, especially if the thyroid is perforated.
3. Perforation of the esophagus.
4. Subcutaneous or mediastinal emphysema.
5. Usually does not allow enough ventilation to adequately eliminate carbon dioxide.

EQUIPMENT:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transtracheal Jet Ventilator 2. 10 Ga needle 3. 3.0 or 3.5 ET tube top | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. BVM 5. Suction |
|---|--|

Performance Criteria	Met Initials	<u>Not Met</u> Initials	Comments
1. Uses universal precautions.			
2. States indications and contraindications of procedure.			

Effective: January 1, 2009

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Performance Criteria, cont.		<i>Met</i> Initials	<i><u>Not</u> Met</i> Initials	<i>Comments</i>
3.	Locates and prepares insertion site at the cricothyroid membrane between the thyroid and cricoid cartilage of larynx.			
4.	Attaches the catheter-needle combination to the syringe and inserts the needle midline at a 45° angle with a quick smooth downward motion following the direction of the trachea. Applies negative pressure to the syringe during insertion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Entrance of air into the syringe indicates that the needle is in the trachea. 			
5.	Advances the catheter over the needle, and withdraws the needle and syringe. If using cricothyrotomy cannula, removes obturator. Attaches oxygen delivery device.			
6.	Assesses for hemorrhage or subcutaneous emphysema, which may indicate improper placement.			
7.	Auscultates lungs while manually holding needle.			
8.	Secures needle hub in place with tape over Benzoin or with other approved device.			

VALIDATOR'S SIGNATURE	ALS PROVIDER'S SIGNATURE	DATE

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