

Tracheostomy Care – Cleaning the Tracheostomy Tube and Ties

Clean and prepare your child's tracheostomy tube for re-use as follows:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water.
2. Gather the supplies you will need:
 - 3 clean pipe cleaners
 - Distilled water
 - Cleaning brush or cotton swabs
 - 2 clean bowls or containers
 - Clean gauze 4x4 or clean cloth for drying the tracheostomy tube
 - Shiley™ trach tube – hydrogen peroxide and distilled water
 - Bivona® trach tube – mild liquid soap, tap water, hot water that has been boiled.
3. Remove the used tracheostomy ties from the tracheostomy tube to be cleaned. Hand wash the Velcro fastening ties in mild soap and water. Rinse and allow to air dry.
4. Place the Shiley™ tracheostomy tube and obturator to be cleaned in a container of 1/2 strength hydrogen peroxide (equal amounts of hydrogen peroxide and distilled water). Clean **Bivona® tube and obturator** with the mild liquid soap and water. Rinse with tap water.
5. Scrub the obturator and the outside of the tube with a brush or cotton swab. Be careful not to touch the part of the tube that goes inside your child.
6. Use two of the pipe cleaners to run through the tracheostomy tube to clean out the inside. Discard the pipe cleaners after using them.
7. Put the Shiley™ tracheostomy tube and obturator into a container of distilled water to rinse. Soak **Bivona® trach and obturator** for 20 minutes in hot water that has been boiled and removed from heat.
8. Remove the Shiley™ tube and obturator from the rinse water. Dry them with A gauze square or clean cloth.
9. Run the third pipe cleaner through the center of the tracheostomy tube to dry the inside. Let the tube air dry.
10. Attach clean dry ties to clean tracheostomy tube.
11. Place the clean tracheostomy tube with attached ties and separate obturator into a clean, closed storage container. Place a clean 2X2 split gauze dressing with the tube, if needed or directed.
12. Store the container where it can be quickly and easily obtained for the next tracheostomy change.
13. Discard the cleaning solutions. Wash and dry the cleaning containers.

Safety Precautions:

- Use a clean container and fresh soaking and rinsing solution each time the tracheostomy tube is cleaned.
- Be sure the cleaned tracheostomy tube is completely dry before placing it in the storage container.
- Do not store the obturator inside the tracheostomy tube. Keep it separate inside the storage container.
- When stored, place in a container that allows the tracheostomy tube to keep its shape.

Call your child's doctor or the Children's Mercy Hospital Information Line at (816) 234-3188 if you have questions or concerns regarding your child's tracheostomy.

See other "**Tracheostomy Care**" CARE CARDS for information on tracheostomy care; suctioning the tracheostomy; changing the tracheostomy ties and skin care; changing the tracheostomy tube; and CPR.