

Tracoe H₂O Cuff-inflation test - Before tube insertion



Prepare an area with all necessary items. Ensure the facility guidelines on handling the tracheostomy tube are followed.



1 Fill a 5- or 10-ml syringe with sterile water and connect it to the pilot balloon. Fill the Tracoe H₂O Cuff with 2-3 ml (maximum) of sterile water.¹ Inspect the cuff to ensure it fills uniformly and there are no leaks. If the cuff does not inflate properly, gently massage it.



Do not fill the H₂O Cuff with air as this would impair the sealing function of the cuff.

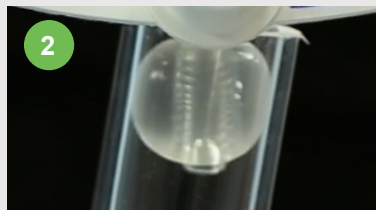


2 When the inspection is complete, remove all sterile water from the cuff by pulling back the syringe plunger. Once all the water is fully removed, the tube with the deflated cuff is ready for insertion.

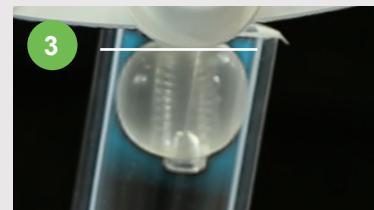
Tracoe H₂O Cuff-inflation - After tube insertion



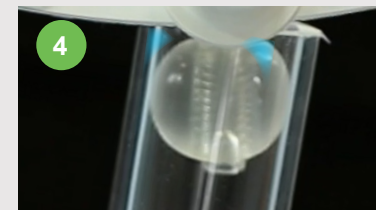
1 Once the tube has been inserted and secured, remove the obturator. Then, place a stethoscope over the trachea.²



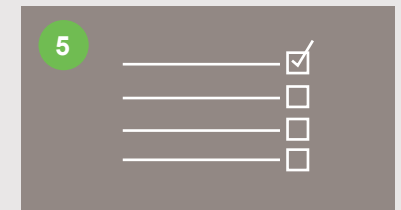
2 **Slowly** fill the Tracoe H₂O Cuff with sterile water using a syringe until no airflow between the cuff and the tracheal wall is heard via the stethoscope.



3 Gradually withdraw a very small amount of water (about 0.25 ml) with the syringe until only minimal airflow is audible. For fine adjustment, consider using a 1 ml syringe.



4 Carefully and slowly add sterile water again until the air leakage is no longer audible.



5 Record the volume used to fill the cuff for each individual patient. The tracheostomy cuff volume should be assessed every 12 hours, or more frequently if changes occur and according to facility guidelines.³

References

- ¹ Rose, L., et al. (2008). Minimal occlusive volume cuff inflation: a survey of current practice. *Intensive and Critical Care Nursing*, 24(6), 359-365.
- ² Wettstein, R. W., et al. (2020). Endotracheal cuff pressures in the PICU: Incidence of underinflation and overinflation. *Canadian Journal of Respiratory Therapy: CJRT= Revue Canadienne de la Therapie Respiratoire: RCTR*, 56, 1.
- ³ Stow, J., et al. (2021). Tracheostomy Tubes. In Koutroulis, N. T. I., et al. (Ed.), *Emergency Management of the Hi-Tech Patient in Acute and Critical Care* (pp. 347-372). John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

For more information, please contact your Tracoe representative or call the Atos Medical SOS Line for on-demand clinical support.

Spot on Support Line (SOS) 1.414.928.4999 | Press **Option 2 for Tracheostomy care**

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