

The ‘Umbrella Furling’ Deflation Technique for Cuffed Tracheostomy Tube - A Useful Tip for An Easier Tracheostomy Insertion

Estelle How Hong¹, Lucy Li², Omar Hilmi³, and Kerry Haddow¹

¹NHS Tayside

²Queen Elizabeth University Hospital

³NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

April 16, 2024

Abstract

Key points: * When deflated, folds often form in the balloon cuff of a tracheostomy tube resulting in additional friction when inserting the tube. * Furthermore, this potentially increases the risk of cuff rupture, particularly in patients with calcified tracheas and iatrogenic tracheal injury from using excessive physical force when inserting a tracheostomy tube. * The ‘Umbrella Furling’ technique for deflating the cuff of a tracheostomy tube is a simple approach whereby the cuff is slowly deflated with a damp gauze wrapped around it while simultaneously twisting the tracheostomy tube. * This enables the deflated cuff to sit flush to the tube, therefore allowing an easier “reduced-friction” insertion of a cuffed tracheostomy tube and reducing the risk of damage to the cuff. * The same technique can be used to facilitate the insertion of endotracheal tubes through an enclosed laryngoscope.

Hosted file

2) main document.docx available at <https://authorea.com/users/738789/articles/712837-the-umbrella-furling-deflation-technique-for-cuffed-tracheostomy-tube-a-useful-tip-for-an-easier-tracheostomy-insertion>





