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

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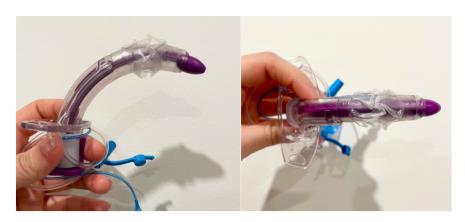
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Abstract

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.

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