



A practical guide to oral suction

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Overview

- This is a practical guide to oral suction. This is an outlines of the procedure and is not training.
- Training on the suction device should be discussed with your health care provider or manufacture, completing all necessary competencies.
- There are a few different suction devices available, so it is important that you become familiar with your device by reading the manufactures guide.
- This information should include specifics like
 - -How to use your device
 - -Consumable management
 - -Cleaning and servicing
 - -Safety checks
 - -Recommended suction pressure



Indication & Contraindications

Indications

- To remove visible secretions from the mouth.
- Audible secretions.
- After cough augmentation, such as using mechanical Insufflation: Exsufflation device (MI:E) or Lung volume recruitment bag (LVR).

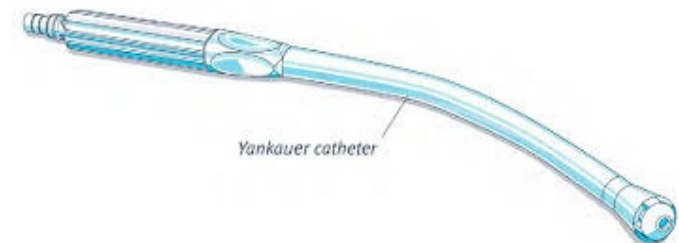
Contraindications

- Head and neck surgery
- Open wounds



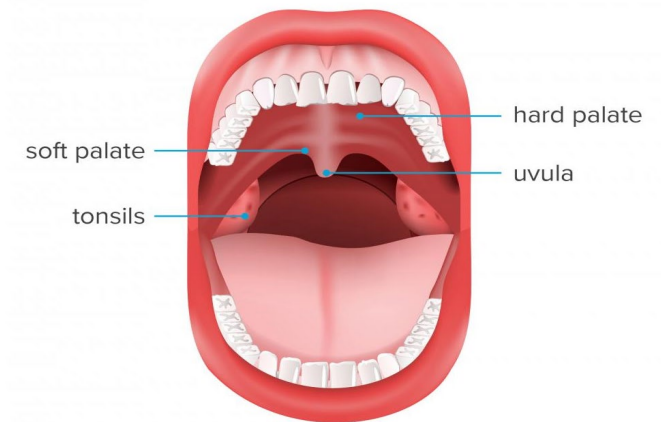
Method

- Make sure the patient is aware of the treatment by gaining consent
- Ensure the patient is in a comfortable position
- Wash hands and dry using a paper towel
- Set up the suction unit, ready for use. Ensure that it is in easy reach for you to be able to comfortably use it without over stretching
- Hold the yankeur catheter in your dominant hand.
- Remove the sleeve.
- Turn on the suction unit to the recommended pressure.
- Once you have completed the suction, clean the yankeur catheter and tubing as per cleaning advice



Technique

- Carefully enter the yankeur catheter into the mouth as far as you can see
- Using the teeth as a guide, apply to suction.
- Your yankeur catheter may have a hole on the length on the catheter. If it does, please cover this with your thumb to create the suction.
- Following the line of the bottom teeth, suctioning around the mouth, avoiding the hard and soft palate and tonsils.
- Encourage the patient to cough, if able.
- Suction the suction for approximately 15 seconds



Safety Considerations

- Know the appropriate suction pressure, as the risk of applying excessive pressure could cause trauma to the mouth.
- Hold the yankeur catheter at the end, where the catheter meets the tube. This will avoid your hand being too close inside the mouth.
- Always look inside the mouth to ensure you can see what you are doing.
- Avoid stimulating the gag reflex
- Ensure you preform pre and post observational checks on the patient.
- If you have any concerns around respiratory distress or anything that is unusual for the patient, then speak to the appropriate health professional



Cleaning

- Using the advise from the manufactures guide, clean the device as instructed.
- It is important to clean the yankeur catheter and tubing between usages
- Suck clean water through the tube. If secretions are thicker and do not easily move, try using a higher suction pressure.
- Dispose of any consumables in your normal household or clinical waste.
- Cover the unit with a towel to keep free from dust

