

„Speaking During Ventilation“ Above Cuff Vocalization

Good day,

You are wearing a cuffed tracheostomy tube with subglottic suction line and may be dependant on continuous mechanical ventilation. Currently your cuff can not be deflated. Therefore, you cannot use your voice as the air from your lungs can not pass through your vocal cords.

Your care team would like to test whether you can use your voice again despite the cuff being inflated.

The team wants to let air stream through the subglottic suction line of the tracheostomy tube - very slowly and carefully. You might feel the stimulation of your throat and mouth by the airflow. That alone is worth experiencing. The airflow passes over your vocal cords, and allows your clinician to assess your ability to voice even though you continue to have a cuff inflated.

It may be uncomfortable at first and feel unfamiliar. Your care team will monitor you and will know what to do should you experience any symptoms as a result of the airflow.

Your care team may humidify the air and interrupt the airflow from time to time so that it is not too strenuous for you. It usually takes a few minutes for the first whisper or voice to succeed. Please be patient, it may take a few tries.

It does not work for every patient, but it is definitely worth trying.

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