

HOSPITAL

DEPARTMENTAL PROCEDURE

TITLE: TRAUMA: SURGICAL CRICOTHYROTOMY

Date Adopted: XX

Supersedes:

Date Revised: XX

Date Reviewed: XX

DISTRIBUTION:

Nursing

STAFF LEVEL:

RN, GN, LVN, GVN

PROCEDURE:

Indication

1. To establish a patent airway in an emergent situation when nasal or oral intubation is not possible due to severe head/maxillofacial trauma or due to tracheal stenosis.
2. **Control of emergent airway in patients greater than 12 years of age.**

Equipment

- sterile gloves
- #6 or smaller tracheostomy tube
- Ambu bag and O₂
- 10ml slip tip syringe if using a cuffed tracheostomy tube
- Surgical prep solution
- Trauma Cricothyrotomy tray with prep pack (call Central Supply for tray and prep pack) **(PHOTO TO FOLLOW PROCEDURE)**

Procedure

1. Place patient in supine position with towel roll behind neck/shoulders to hyperextend neck, while holding patient's head to maintain alignment.
2. Cleanse neck with surgical prep solution in a circular outward motion.
3. Physician will make incision above the cricoid ring and insert tracheostomy tube. If cuffed tube is used, inflate cuff with 8-10ml air to form a seal in the trachea.
4. If patient is able to breath spontaneously, attach O₂ with humidified trach collar. If patient is not breathing sufficiently, connect Ambu bag to assist with breathing.

Nursing Assessment

1. Auscultate for bilateral breath sounds with rise and fall of chest.
2. Watch for bleeding at insertion site or development of subcutaneous emphysema.
3. **Scalpel Cricothyrotomy is not recommended for children below 12 years of age due to damage to the cricoid cartilage and tracheal stenosis from scar tissue.**

Complications

1. Hemorrhage
2. Perforation of thyroid or esophagus
3. Subcutaneous or mediastinal emphysema
4. Infection

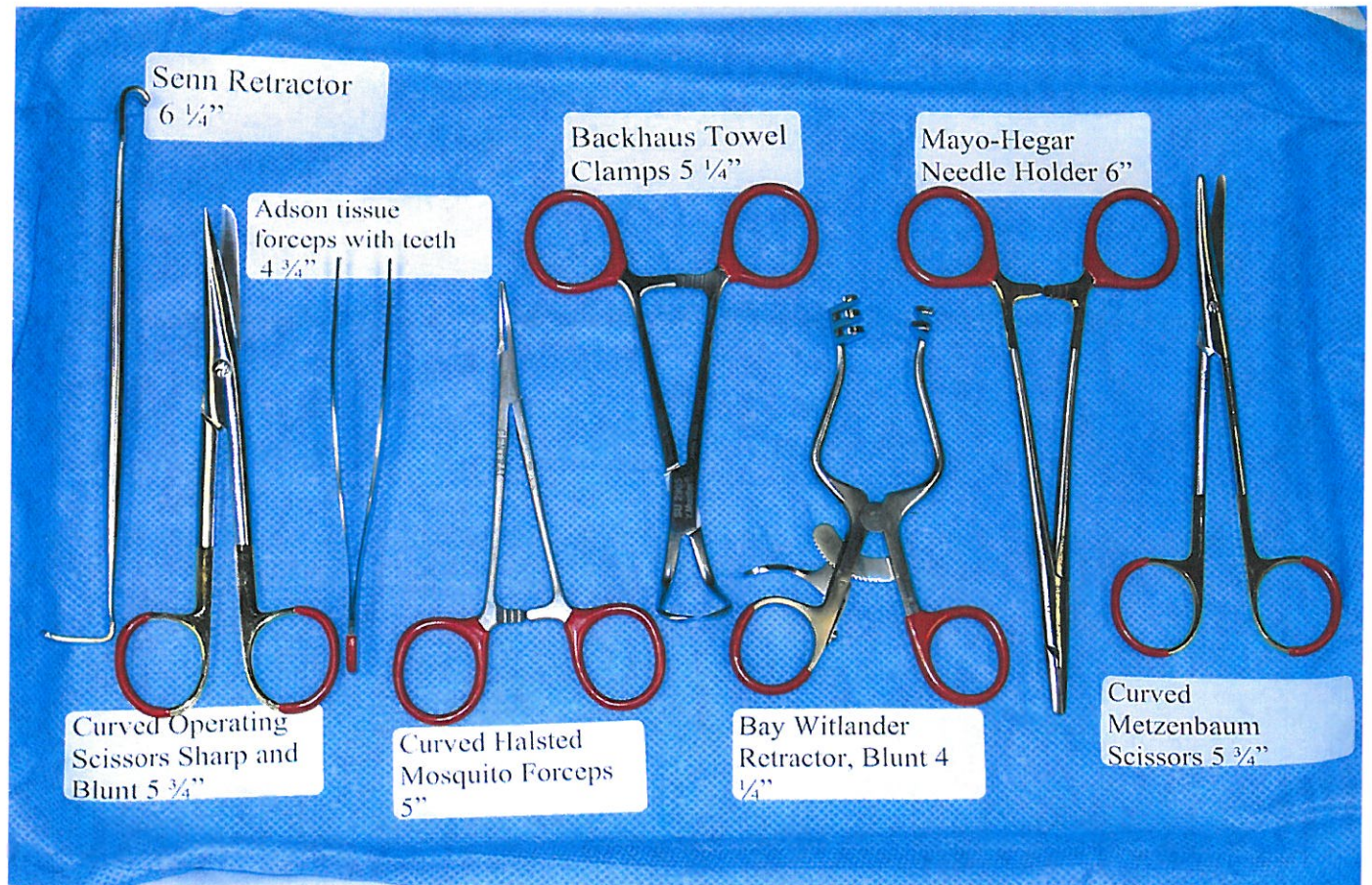
REFERENCES:

American Association of Critical Care Nurses, *AACN Procedure Manual for Critical Care*, 2010, Sixth Edition, W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

American College of Surgeons, *Advanced Trauma Life Support*, 2014, Seventh Edition, Chicago, Illinois.

SIGNATURES:

Originating department / committee



Trauma Cricothyrotomy Tray