



Suctioning and Trachea Care with Hypoxia

Simulated Clinical Experience (SCE™) Overview

Location: Medical-Surgical Unit

History/Information:

This is a 54-year-old male on a Medical-Surgical Unit during the recovery and weaning phase of a tracheostomy insertion. The following is received in a verbal exchange of shift report: Tracheostomy placement one month ago related to difficulty weaning from a ventilator. The patient has been on a tracheostomy collar for one week. The patient has normally required suctioning every four hours. The characteristics of the secretions have been moderate in amount, tan, and thin. However, the last time the patient was suctioned at 0600 hours, minimal secretions were obtained. The patient had an episode of frequent premature ventricular contractions (PVCs) two days ago and was therefore placed on a bedside monitor for assessment. No further ectopy was noted. He is presently in sinus rhythm with vital signs within normal limits.

Healthcare Provider's Orders:

- 2.5mL saline flush to saline lock every 8 hours
- Continuous cardiac monitoring
- Continuous SpO₂
- Vital signs every 4 hours
- Strict Intake and Output
- PEG tube feedings: 250mL full strength tube feeding with fiber every 6 hours
- Flush PEG tube with 30-60mL water before and after each bolus tube feed
- 200mL water via percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tube every 8 hours
- 30% oxygen via tracheostomy collar
- Suction tracheostomy prn
- Tracheostomy care every 8 hours
- Chair three times/day
- Bedside physical therapy daily
- Daily ECG
- Chest x-ray this A.M.

Learning Objectives

1. Develops, implements, and evaluates a plan of care for the patient with a tracheostomy (SYNTHESIS).
2. Demonstrates appropriate tracheal suctioning techniques, including ongoing assessment of the patient's respiratory status (APPLICATION).
3. Outlines the possible causes of acute respiratory distress in the tracheostomy patient (KNOWLEDGE).
4. Intervenes appropriately to resolve acute respiratory distress in the patient with a tracheostomy (APPLICATION).

Questions to Prepare for the Simulated Clinical Experience

1. What are some of the indications for tracheostomy?
2. Research the use of saline bullets for mucus plugs and discuss their use.
3. Be prepared to discuss the nursing health assessment that should be done on a patient with a tracheostomy.
4. Why is it important to provide warm humidity to a patient with a tracheostomy?
5. How can patients with a tracheostomy communicate their concerns and fears?
6. What are some of the complications that may occur with patients having tracheostomies?
7. Why do nurses provide tracheostomy care?
8. Why are patients hyperoxygenated before and after suctioning?
9. Why is sterility maintained during suctioning?
10. Name three healthcare professionals that may be involved in the care of a patient with a tracheostomy

References

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