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TOPIC #1: V-VAC Suction Unit

The V-Vac suction unit is a manual, portable unit designed to provide quick and effective suctioning of oral secretions in adjustable stroke pressures from 170 mmHg up to 380 mmHg. It weighs less than one pound and can be adjusted to accommodate different hand sizes. Read these instructions for use carefully and become familiar with the operation and maintenance before using the V-Vac.



Figure 1

ASSEMBLING THE V-VAC FOR OPERATION

Cartridge installation:

Hold the handle in your left hand and the cartridge in your right hand and insert the oval-shaped hole firmly into the fitting in the handle. Pivot it toward the handle and snap it into place with your thumbs as shown below in figures 2 and 3. A red plastic cap, which must be removed prior to patient use, protects the intake valve. Keep this cap for capping the intake valve after patient use.

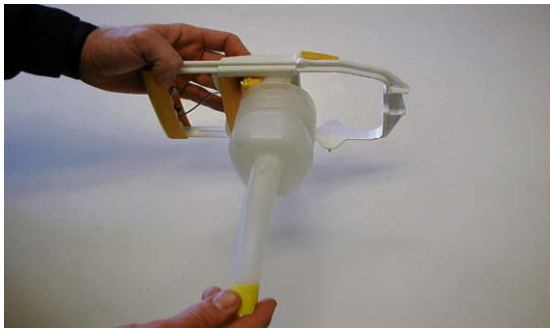


Figure 2

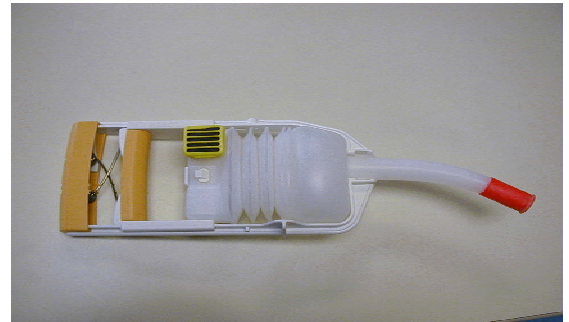



Figure 3

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Cartridge removal:

Hold the handle with the tip pointing away from you. Replace cap that was removed from intake valve prior to patient use. With the heel of your left hand, push out on the cartridge while gripping the handle frame under the nozzle with your left hand. As the cartridge pops out, catch it with you right hand and pivot it to a right angle position and remove it as shown in figure 4.

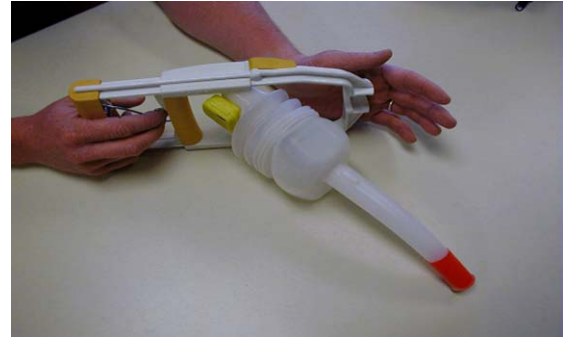


Figure 4

Stroke adjustment:

To adjust the stroke of the handle, which adjusts the amount of pressure generated by the V-Vac, squeeze the handle and flip the stroke stop over as shown in figure 5. The front position provides maximum suction pressure of about 380 mmHg. This will be the most common setting used during adult suctioning. Grab the lever and flip it toward you pictured in figure 6. The rear position offers a lower pressure of about 170 mmHg shown in figure 7. To secure the stroke stop, push down until it snaps into place.




Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

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Suction tip and their uses:

The V-Vac cartridge is equipped with a large suction tip for general use. It can suction large quantities of secretions and larger particles than the French catheter. An adapter tip is provided for additional applications as shown in figure 8. This tip can be stored on the adapter tip holder found on the handle of the V-Vac. Available for use with the adapter tip is a non-sterile 18 ga. French suction catheter shown in figure 9. This should be firmly seated in the adapter tip **before use**. The adapter tip should then be pushed onto the intake valve and used for suctioning of smaller and thinner liquid secretions.

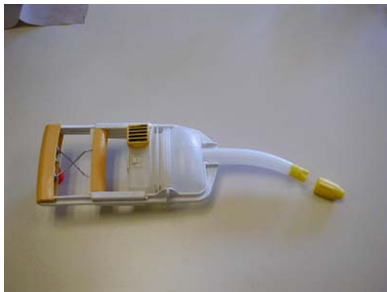


Figure 8

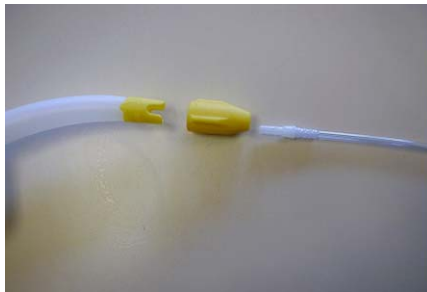


Figure 9

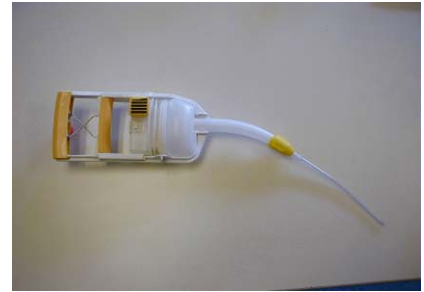


Figure 10

Clogged Exhaust

The exhaust valve has been positioned to limit the possibility of it becoming clogged during use. If the 450 ml cartridge becomes full, the exhaust filter could clog. This can also happen if the cartridge is partially full and is held tip up. If the exhaust filter clogs, the handle will not return to the compressed cartridge position. In this situation, flip open the exhaust valve cap that holds the filter. In most cases, the exhaust valve will clear and the unit again operates.

CAUTION: With the exhaust filter removed, some suctioned product may escape through the exhaust valve. Use extreme care when opening the exhaust valve.

