

Lothian Critical Care Guidelines

Heated humidified oxygen therapy for self ventilating patients with a tracheostomy

Heated humidified oxygen therapy can be delivered directly to a self-ventilating patient via a tracheostomy.

The circuit is made up of a pre-assembled, large bore, dual limb breathing circuit that attaches directly to the tracheostomy with either a T or Y shaped connector.

Indications for use

- As part of a weaning strategy
- To deliver humidification for patients with thick secretions
- Spontaneous breathing trials

Contraindications

- No spontaneous breathing effort

Equipment required (see appendix 1)

Set up 1- with air/oxygen blender

Heated humidification circuit (RT201)

Air/oxygen blender (utilise separate blue section of tubing from circuit pack to connect blender to humidifier- refer to high flow set up guideline)

Set up 2- with Oxiflo air entrainer and oxygen flow meter

Heated humidification circuit (RT201)

Simple oxygen tubing

Oxiflo air entrainer

Oxygen flow meter

AND EITHER

T piece connector- disconnect both sections of tubing from Y piece and rearrange with T piece as shown in appendix 1

Or

Y piece connector- with closed suction in situ, attach Y piece directly as shown in appendix 1

Further Information

Patient monitoring should continue while self ventilating with a tracheostomy in situ. Ensure that the expiratory end of the tubing is exposed at all times.

Appendix 1 – Equipment set up

Air/oxygen blender plus T Piece



Air/oxygen blender plus Y piece



Oxiflo air entrainer and oxygen flow meter plus T piece



Oxiflo air entrainer and oxygen flow meter plus Y piece



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