



Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/
Adverse Event Information

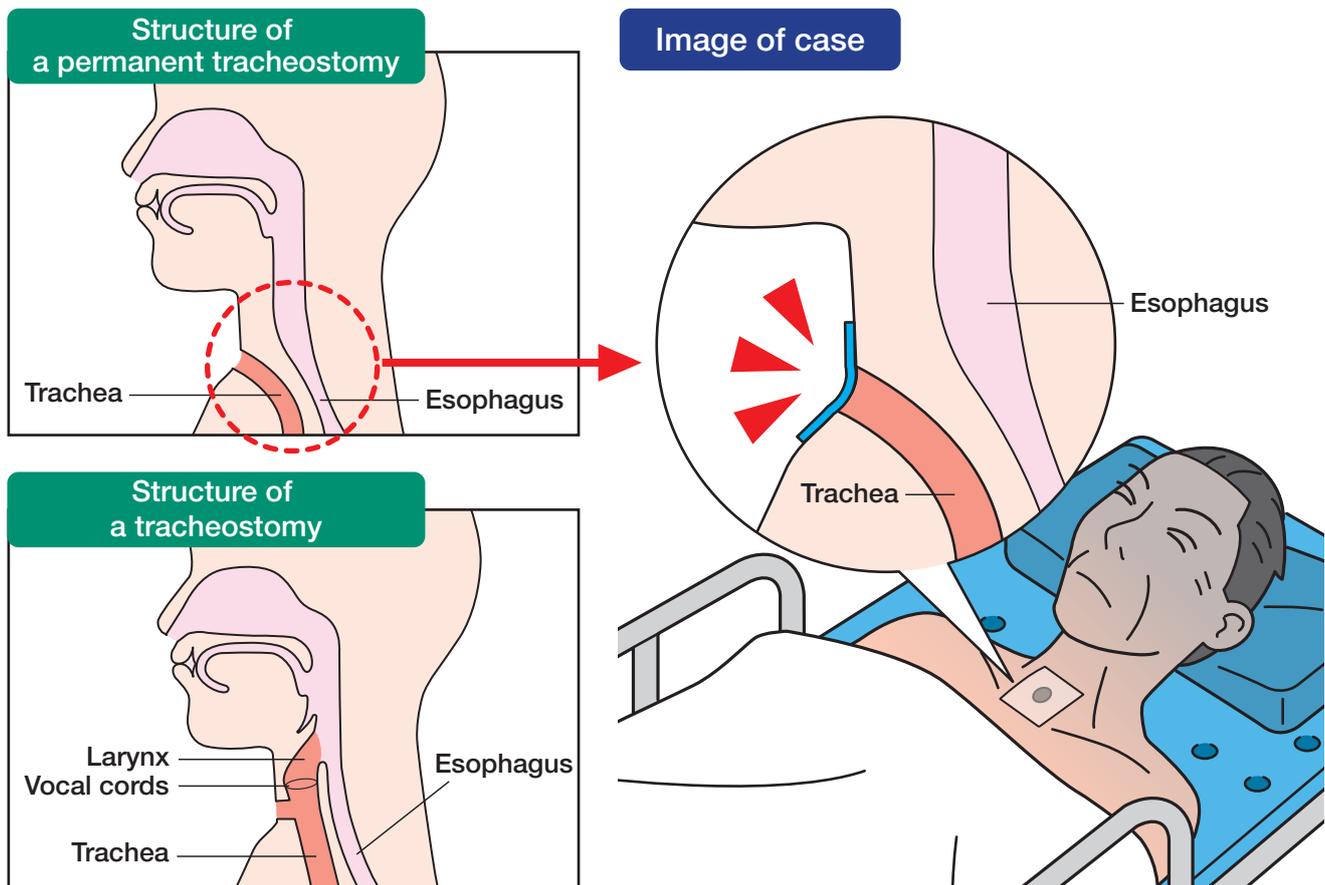
Medical Safety Information

Film Dressing Affixed to Permanent Tracheostomy

No.123, February 2017

Two cases have been reported in which, due to a lack of awareness that a patient had a permanent tracheostomy, a film dressing was affixed to the hole in the patient's neck while the patient was in the bath or shower, affecting the patient's respiratory condition (information collection period: from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2016). The information is compiled based on "Individual Theme Review" (p.149) in the 46th Quarterly Report.

Cases have been reported in which a patient's permanent tracheostomy was blocked due to a failure to realize that the hole in their neck was a permanent tracheostomy.



Film Dressing Affixed to Permanent Tracheostomy

Case

The primary nurse at the time of admission heard from the physician that the patient had a permanent tracheostomy and entered this fact in the patient's nursing profile. After admission, when the patient had a shower for the first time, Nurse A and Nurse B conferred with each other and affixed gauze and a film dressing over the hole in the patient's neck to prevent warm water entering the hole. The two nurses did not know that the hole in the patient's neck was a permanent tracheostomy. By chance, the top of the hole was not completely blocked and the nurses saw the patient mouth words indicating that the patient felt no discomfort. Subsequently, Nurse C, who was tasked with showering the patient and was also unaware that the patient had a permanent tracheostomy, noticed that the top of the film dressing on the patient's neck was open and sealed it up, to stop warm water getting in. Less than a minute after starting the shower, the whole of the patient's body became pale and the patient lost consciousness. When the film dressing affixed to the neck was peeled off, the patient began breathing and recovered consciousness.

Preventive measures taken at the medical institutions in which the events occurred

- Staff will use the electronic medical record and conferences to share the information that a patient has a permanent tracheostomy.
- Staff tasked with bathing patients will ensure that they understand the patient's illness and condition before providing assistance.

Complementary comment by the Comprehensive Evaluation Panel

- If a patient has a hole in their neck, check whether or not the hole is a permanent tracheostomy.
- If a film dressing blocks a permanent tracheostomy, the patient will be unable to breathe.

* As part of the Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/Adverse Event Information (a Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare grant project), this medical safety information was prepared based on the cases collected in the Project as well as on opinions of the "Comprehensive Evaluation Panel" to prevent the occurrence and recurrence of medical adverse events. See quarterly reports and annual reports posted on the Japan Council for Quality Health Care website for details of the Project.

<http://www.med-safe.jp/>

* Accuracy of information was ensured at the time of preparation but cannot be guaranteed in the future.

* This information is intended neither to limit the discretion of healthcare providers nor to impose certain obligations or responsibilities on them.



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