

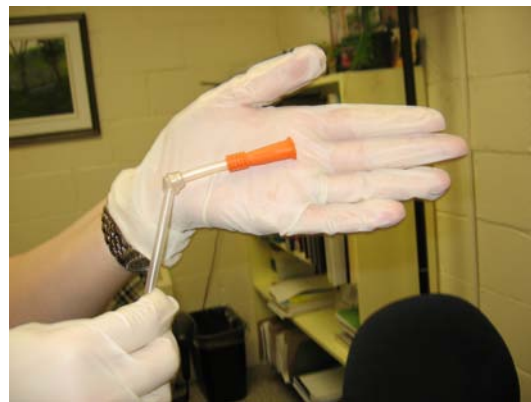
**Tracheoesophageal puncture:** An opening (puncture) has been created between the tracheostoma (windpipe) and esophagus (food pipe) in order to place a speech valve (voice prosthesis). A catheter or voice prosthesis must always be in the puncture site otherwise the puncture may close in a few hours.

If problems should occur with prosthesis or if the patient is experiencing difficulty:

You will need:

- a 16 Fr sterile catheter
- a clean kidney basin with equal parts peroxide and sterile water
- Water-based lubricating jelly
- Surgical tape
- Surgical gloves on at all times

1. Take 16 Fr sterile catheter, remove from package and tie a knot next to the capped end.



2. Place water-based lubricating jelly on and around the rounded tip



3. Remove prosthesis by tugging firmly on strap. You will have to use some force to pull it out. This will not hurt the patient. (S)He may experience coughing.



4. Immediately, insert catheter into the **prosthesis site, not just the stoma**. **The hole should be on the posterior wall of his trachea**. Insert until capped end can be taped to neck.



5. Rinse prosthesis with solution of peroxide and sterile water.



6. Return prosthesis to the patient. **DO NOT DISCARD.**