

PEDIATRIC SURGERY

Tracheostomy

Preference Card

1. Hyperextend neck as severely as possible with shoulder rolls and with tape on the forehead.
2. Make a short (1 cm) vertical incision over trachea and extend through platysma then dissect bluntly in the midline--place small right angle retractors on each side to help to retract strap muscles to the side.
3. Identify the thyroid isthmus and retract superiorly and continue dissection on top of the trachea.
4. Make an inferiorly-based trap-door at the 3rd ring (use 11 blade then tonotomy scissors for the vertical cuts.)
5. Put a stay stitch on each side with 4-0 nylons, tie knots at two levels (air knots) and tape each to the chest separately and label to identify the side.
6. Stitch the trap door to the dermis of the inferior incision with vicryl.
7. Place a non-cuffed trach tube and stitch in place x4 to neck skin with 4-0 nylons.
8. Tie the umbilical tape around neck with one finger slack.
9. Change trach at a week.