



## Medical Devices

### Tracheostomy tube exchanger

A research group of the Andalusian Public Health System (SSPA) has developed a tracheostomy tube exchanger aimed at reducing the risk of infection and/or injury associated with ventilation tube replacements.

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#### Description

Tracheostomy has recently become one of the most used surgical techniques at the Intensive Care Units (ICU) and in patients with an artificial respiration system.

This procedure requires changing the tracheostomy tube every 7 to 10 days in order to reduce possible infections and other derived problems. Although it is a common step, it is not safe from causing adverse effects to both patients and healthcare professionals. Therefore, a new device that allows a correct and secure tracheostomy tube change is needed.

A research group from the Andalusian Public Health System (SSPA) has developed a tracheostomy tube exchanger which serves as a guide for inserting new tubes into the trachea. It is designed for use with patients with temporary tracheostomy tubing – ie undergoing assisted mechanical ventilation or oxygen-enriched spontaneous breathing.

The device's basic purpose is to ensure the correct placement of new ventilation tubes, in readiness for connection to the support system that is required in each case. In this way, the problems associated with ventilation tube placement, such as injury and infection are addressed.



#### Advantages

1. It minimises the complications that can arise when changing the tubing.
2. It reduces the indirect health costs associated with such complications.
3. The exchanger not only serves as a guide when inserting the new tube, but also enables the patient to be ventilated should complications arise.
4. It also enables the introduction of a new, smaller tube in cases involving a narrowing of the tracheostomy, thereby reducing patient discomfort.



#### Intellectual Property

This technology is protected by patent.



#### Aims

The research group is looking for a collaboration agreement for further development or a license agreement.



#### Classification

Area: Medical device

Pathology: Respiratory and Pulmonary system