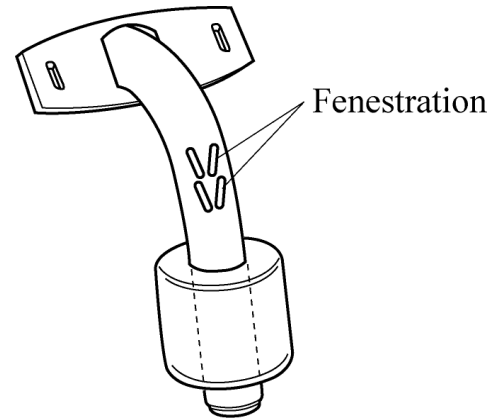


# Fenestrated Tracheostomy Tube

## What is a fenestrated trach?

A fenestrated trach tube is similar to other trach tubes but has one added feature. It has a hole in the outer cannula. This hole allows air to pass from your lungs up through your vocal cords and out through your mouth and nose. It therefore, lets you breathe normally, as if you did not have a tracheostomy. It also allows you to speak and cough out secretions through your mouth.



## Why are fenestrated trachs used?

Fenestrated trachs may be used as a step before the removal of your trach tube. It allows a "trial" to see how you do breathing normally and coughing up secretions on your own. It is also used to let you speak if you don't need a trach tube open all the time.

## What are the parts of a fenestrated trach tube?

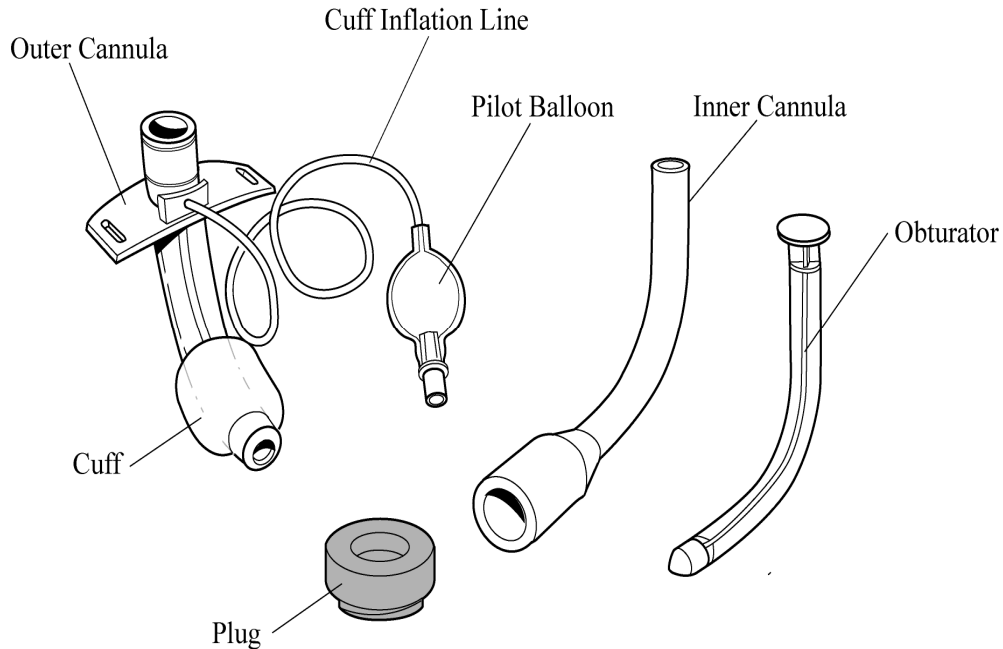
A fenestrated trach tube comes with an outer cannula, inner cannula, obturator, cuff and plug.

The outer cannula is placed in the stoma to keep the hole from closing. The inner cannula fits into the outer cannula, and can be removed for cleaning. The obturator is only used when putting the outer cannula into the stoma. The cuff is a balloon around the outer cannula. When it is filled with air, the cuff seals off the space between the wall of your windpipe and the outer cannula. This is necessary when you are on a breathing machine or if you have problems with choking.

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The plug is locked into the outer cannula and is used when you want to keep air from entering the outer cannula.



## How do I use the Fenestrated Tube?

There are two ways to use the fenestrated tube:

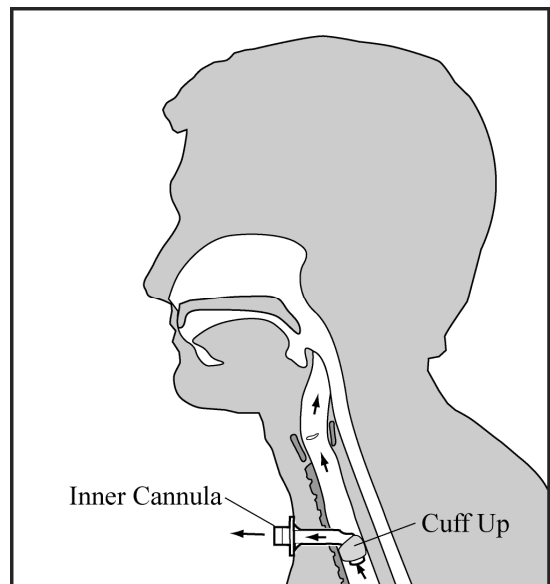
### 1. Fenestrated feature not in use.

When the fenestration is not in use, the tube works just like other trach tubes.

To do this:

- a. Put the inner cannula in the outer cannula and lock it.
- b. Inflate the cuff.

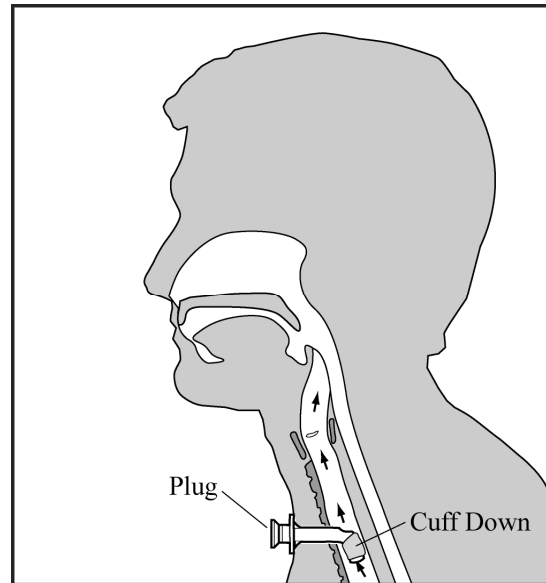
The tube is used this way when you are on a breathing machine or sometimes if you are eating. This means that you will be breathing and coughing secretions up through the trach tube.



## 2. Fenestration in use.

When you use the fenestration feature, it will allow you to breathe through your nose and mouth, speak, and cough secretions out through your mouth. To do this:

- a. Deflate the cuff.
- b. Take out the inner cannula.
- c. Place the plug in the outer cannula and lock it.
- d. You can now talk on exhalation.



- ❖ **Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: [health-info@osu.edu](mailto:health-info@osu.edu).**