

SPIRACATH^(TM)

Generic name: Tracheobronchial Suction Catheter

Brand name: SPIRACATH

Product code: SCMSUC

Product Mfg Ref code: SM-SC



SPIRACATH is a flexible, sterile medical device used to remove secretions such as mucus, saliva, blood, and other fluids from a patient's airway. It helps to maintain a clear airway and ensures proper breathing, especially in patients who are unable to clear secretions on their own.

Design features:

- Distal end: 1 central opening and 2 lateral eyes
- Proximal end: Funnel connectors for suction machine
- Marking: Markings on the tube

Material specifications:

- Tube material: Medical grade PVC
- Connector material: Color- coded PP
- Surface: smooth, non-toxic, kink resistant
- Latex free

Core Functions & Uses

- Airway Maintenance: Prevents mucus plugs, lung collapse (atelectasis), and infections like pneumonia by keeping the respiratory tract clear.

- Tracheostomy & Ventilator Care: Essential for patients with artificial airways, as these devices can impair the natural cough reflex and increase mucus production.
- Emergency Care: Rapidly clears fluids during resuscitation or acute respiratory distress in hospitals and ambulances.
- Specimen Collection: Used with a sterile collector to gather deep sputum samples for lab testing.

Size specifications:

Measured in French (Fr) scale

- General Rule: SPIRACATH's outer diameter should ideally be less than 50% of the internal diameter of the breathing tube to allow air to pass around it during the procedure.

Size (Fr)	Color code
5	Grey
6	Light green
8	Blue
10	Black
12	White
14	Green
16	Orange
18	Red

Typical Sizes:

- Infants/Neonates: 5–8 Fr (often blue or grey).
- Pediatrics: 8–10 Fr (often green).
- Adults: 10–16 Fr (yellow, orange, or red).

Safety and Preparation

- Professional Training: Suctioning should only be performed by individuals who have received formal training from a healthcare provider. Improper technique can cause injury or hypoxia.
- Hygiene: Maintaining a clean environment is essential. Thorough handwashing and the use of sterile equipment help prevent respiratory infections.
- Equipment Check: Ensure the suction machine is functioning correctly and that all tubing and canisters are clean and properly connected before starting.

General Guidelines

- **Pressure Settings:** Vacuum pressure must be set according to the specific recommendations of a physician, as requirements differ significantly between adults, children, and infants.
- **Insertion Technique:** Guidance from a medical professional is necessary to understand the correct depth of insertion and how to avoid damaging delicate airway tissues.
- **Duration:** Suctioning should be brief to ensure the patient maintains adequate oxygen levels. Always allow for recovery time between passes.

Monitoring and Maintenance

- **Patient Response:** Closely observe the patient for any signs of distress, changes in heart rate, or changes in skin color during and after the procedure.
- **Disposal:** SPIRACATH catheters are designed for single use. Follow local medical waste protocols for disposal to maintain a sterile environment.
- **Cleaning:** Regular maintenance of the suction machine and collection canister is required to prevent bacterial growth.

When to Contact a Healthcare Provider

Seek immediate medical advice if any of the following occur:

- Changes in the color, thickness, or odor of secretions.
- The appearance of blood in the mucus.
- Increased difficulty breathing or persistent coughing.
- Redness or irritation at the site of a tracheostomy.

Safe Usage Tips

- **Suction Time:** Limit each pass to 10–15 seconds for adults and under 5 seconds for children to prevent oxygen deprivation (hypoxia).
- **Technique:** Only apply suction while withdrawing the catheter, never while inserting it, to avoid tissue trauma.
- **Pressure:** Use the lowest effective vacuum pressure (generally 70–150 mmHg) to minimize mucosal damage.