



Understanding your Suction Machine

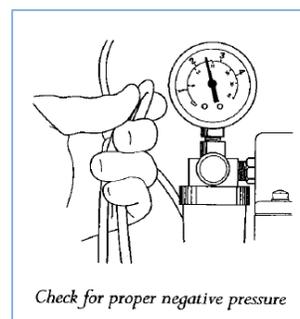
Basic Patient Education for Medical Aspirators

Purpose: A medical aspirator is a small suction machine used to remove excess secretions from a patient's oral cavity or airways. When a patient's ability to cough is weak or absent, secretions will build up in the lungs, airways, and mouth. Suctioning can assist removal of these secretions from the mouth and large airways and allows the patient to breathe easier.

How to set up the suction machine for use: (the provided suction kit consists of a short clear tube, a screw in filter, a 6' clear tubing, canister, and a Yankauer suction device)



1. Position the machine on a flat surface near the patient. Screw the filter into the back side of the regulator knob fitting under the pressure gauge. Connect the short, clear plastic tubing to the inlet filter, and then to the top port of the suction canister lid.
2. Attach the 6' tube to the side port on the lid of the collection canister. This is designated on the lid as the "out to patient" port. Attach the Yankauer (pronounced Yank-Hour) suction catheter to the other end of the 6' tube for oral cavity suctioning. If performing deep suctioning of the nose, throat or tracheostomy a small French whistle-tip catheter would be utilized and should be ordered separately.
3. Plug the unit into a grounded wall outlet and turn the power switch to the "ON" position. To verify the pressure setting, kink the connection tube and read the gauge. Then adjust the pressure gauge to the setting specified by your health care provider by turning the regulator knob clockwise. (see illustration right)
4. It is important that you hold your thumb over the vent on the Yankauer catheter or the device will not suction. Talk to your Nurse about how to apply the suction to the patient.



Cleaning:

1. Make sure to empty the collection canister before the fluid level reaches the "Safe Full" line on the canister, usually when the canister is 2/3 full. Disconnect all tubings from the canister lid, open the large capped port and empty contents down the toilet. It is recommended that a small amount of water be aspirated before and after suctioning to clear the tubing of all secretions. This prevents drying of secretions in the tubing/canister and clogged catheter tips.
2. Disassemble and hand wash the canister, lid, and Yankauer device with a mild soap and water daily, rinse well, dry and reassemble tubings. The canister and Yankauer may be used many times if it is kept clean. *If the canister becomes cracked or damaged the suction will not operate. Order a replacement suction kit.*

Safety

The patient should be monitored carefully during and after suctioning. If any adverse conditions occur during suctioning, the procedure should be stopped immediately. Please follow these safety precautions:

- Always wear gloves when suctioning or handling secretions.
- Only apply vacuum pressure after entering the oral cavity (Your Nurse must instruct you on proper use before you attempt to suction a patient).
- Never perform suction procedures without verifying suction pressure.
- Yankauer devices for mouth suction can be cleansed and are reusable unless damaged. Deep suction catheters (French) are single use only then must be discarded.

The basic information given in this handout does not replace the manufacturer's suggested use guidelines. For more information go to <http://therapysupport.com/info> for the complete owner's manual. Please contact Therapy Support @ 877-885-HEAL for any questions, service, or repairs.