

SELF ASSESSMENT – MODULE A-2: Nasotracheal Suctioning

1. List the indication for nasotracheal suctioning as outlined by the AARC's CPG on the topic.
THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A PATENT AIRWAY AND REMOVE SECRETIONS OR FOREIGN MATERIAL FROM THE TRACHEA IN THE PRESENCE OF AN INABILITY TO CLEAR SECRETIONS; AN AUDIBLE EVIDENCE OF SECRETIONS IN THE LARGE/CENTRAL AIRWAYS THAT PERSIST IN SPITE OF PATIENT'S BEST COUGH EFFORT.
2. List three clinical findings one might find that would indicate the need to suction the nasopharynx.
 - A. **AUDIBLE RHONCHI**
 - B. **WITH OR WITHOUT A STETHOSCOPE**
 - C. **RHONCHAL (BRONCHIAL) FREMITUS**
 - D. **VISIBLE SECRETIONS (ORALLY OR IN AIRWAY)**
 - E. **WEAK OR INEFFECTIVE COUGH**
 - F. **OTHER FINDINGS**
 - G. **OXYGEN DESATURATION**
 - H. **INCREASED WOB**
 - I. **TACHYPNEA, TACHYCARDIA, INCREASED BP**
3. What is the most common complication of nasopharyngeal suctioning?
TISSUE TRAUMA
4. What level of vacuum is appropriate for each of the following patients?
 - A. Adult: **100 – 120 mm Hg**
 - B. Child: **80 – 100 mm Hg**
 - C. Infant: **60 – 80 mm Hg**
5. List two contraindications for nasotracheal suctioning:
 - A. **EPIGLOTTITIS OR CROUP (ABSOLUTE CONTRAINDICATION)**
 - B. **OCCLUDED NASAL PASSAGES**
 - C. **NASAL BLEEDING, SYSTEMIC COAGULOPATHY OR BLEEDING DISORDER**
 - D. **LARYNGOSPASM**
 - E. **IRRITABLE AIRWAY**
 - F. **ACUTE HEAD, FACIAL OR NECK INJURY**
 - G. **UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTION**

6. List three complications associated with nasotracheal suctioning:

- A. **TRAUMA**
 - i. **LACERATION OF NASAL TURBINATES**
 - ii. **PERFORATION OF THE PHARYNX**
 - iii. **NASAL IRRITATION/BLEEDING**
 - iv. **TRACHEITIS**
 - v. **MUCOSAL HEMORRHAGE**
- B. **HYPOXIA/HYPOXEMIA**
- C. **CARDIAC DYSRHYTHMIAS (SINUS TACHYCARDIA,, VENTRICULAR ECTOPY)**
- D. **CARDIAC ARREST**
- E. **SINUS BRADYCARDIA**
- F. **HYPER/HYPOTENSION**
- G. **RESPIRATORY ARREST**
- H. **GAGGING AND VOMITING WITH POTENTIAL ASPIRATION**
- I. **ATELECTASIS**
- J. **LARYNGOSPASM**
- K. **BRONCHOSPASM**
- L. **NOSOCOMIAL INFECTION**
- M. **UNCONTROLLED COUGHING**
- N. **PAIN**
- O. **ATELECTASIS**
- P. **MISDIRECTION OF CATHETER**
- Q. **INCREASED INTRACRANIAL PRESSURE**
 - i. **IVH**
 - ii. **EXACERBATION OF CEREBRAL EDEMA**

7. When should suction be applied during the suctioning process?

ONLY ON THE WAY OUT