

smiths medical  
bringing technology to life

# “Talking Tubes”



**PORTEX**®

## Why choose a talking tube?

The primary goal of the Portex® and Bivona® Talking Tracheostomy Tubes is to aid the tracheostomized patient with vocal fold function to help speak well enough to be understood. Verbal communication is critical to the psychological, social, and medical welfare of these patients. Moreover, nonverbal communications are often very difficult and frustrating for both the patient and the health care provider.

The “Talking” tracheostomy tube helps patients to speak clearly, from an audible whisper to a fully audible voice. This type of tracheostomy tube has been used successfully in patients with spinal cord trauma, neuromuscular diseases, ALS, COPD, and other causes of respiratory failure. The criteria for success with the tube is an adequate voice intensity, normal pathology of the upper airway and laryngeal structures and the patient being cognitively intact.

## Secondary Gas Source

The green color-coded gas source line of the Portex Blue Line<sup>®</sup> tracheostomy tube or the clear line of the Bivona<sup>®</sup> tracheostomy tube should be connected to a medical



The flow-meter should be set initially at 4-6 LPM. This flow commonly produces an audible whisper. The gas flow may be slowly adjusted upward to 10-15 LPM (15 LPM maximum) to produce the desired intensity of vocal quality.



**Talking**



**Not Talking**

## How to operate a talking tube

The patient or an assistant must occlude the thumb port to direct gas flow up through the folds. When not in use, the gas source should be turned off.

At the higher flow rates, drying of tracheal mucosal tissue is possible, and it is recommended that the gas source be humidified via a diffuser or bubble humidifier.

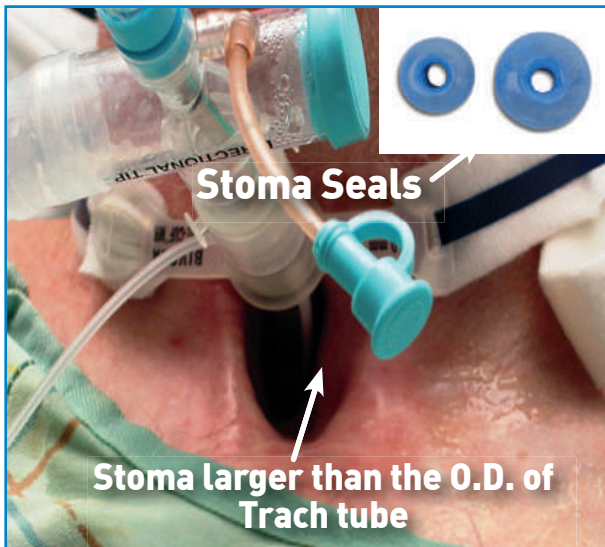
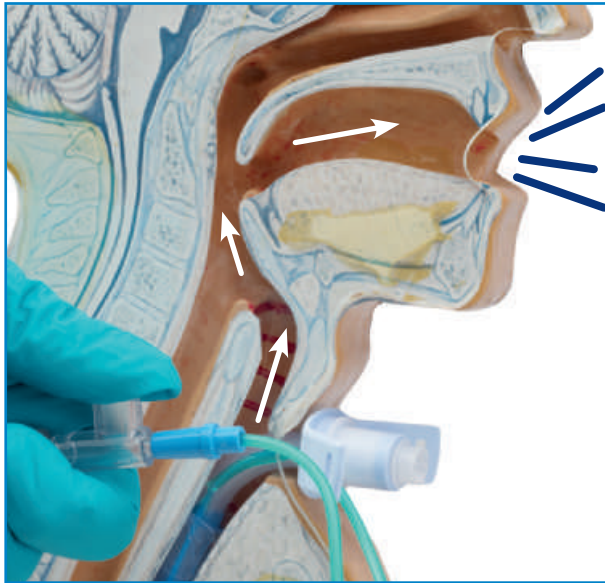
## How to operate a talking tube

The “Talking” tracheostomy tubes are designed to help provide means of flowing a gas through the vocal folds, thus providing a way for the tracheostomized patient to attempt speech.

Every patient is different but generally between 10 and 15 LPM (15 LPM maximum) is required to get enough gas flow through the vocal cords to get a quality of voice.

A critical factor in the successful use of a talking tube is limiting gas flow leakage at the stoma site. Irregular stoma or stomas larger than the O.D. (outer diameter) of the tube can cause the gas flow introduced to escape through the stoma as opposed to flowing up through the vocal cords. Securing the tube snug to the patient’s stoma with a good split gauze dressing can help minimize leaking.

There are stoma seals that can be ordered as a custom item from the Bivona® Tracheostomy Tube Customization Lab.





## What to Expect

It should be understood that not all patients will be able to speak with 100% clarity immediately after insertion of the “Talking” tracheostomy tubes. It has been demonstrated that it routinely takes 2 -3 days before consistently adequate voice intensity is produced. Reasons for this delay may be prolonged endotracheal intubations resulting in poor adduction of the vocal cords, trauma to the cords, prolonged vocal fold adduction, and non-use of the voice. Daily rehabilitation, instruction and reinforcement are required to achieve optimal results.

## Talking Tube reference codes

Portex® Blue Line® Cuffed Trach Talk®				
Code	Size	I.D.	O.D.	Length
100/785/070	7.0 mm	7.0 mm	9.7 mm	65.0 mm
100/785/080	8.0 mm	8.0 mm	11.0 mm	76.0 mm
100/785/090	9.0 mm	9.0 mm	12.4 mm	87.0 mm

Portex® Bivona® Mid-Range Aire-Cuf® Trach with Talk Attachment				
Code	Size	I.D.	O.D.	Length
755150	5.0 mm	5.0 mm	7.3 mm	60.0 mm
755160	6.0 mm	6.0 mm	8.7 mm	70.0 mm
755170	7.0 mm	7.0 mm	10.0 mm	80.0 mm
755180	8.0 mm	8.0 mm	11.0 mm	88.0 mm
755190	9.0 mm	9.0 mm	12.3 mm	98.0 mm

Portex® Bivona® Fome-Cuf® Trach with Talk Attachment				
Code	Size	I.D.	O.D.	Length
855150	5.0 mm	5.0 mm	7.3 mm	60.0 mm
855160	6.0 mm	6.0 mm	8.7 mm	70.0 mm
855170	7.0 mm	7.0 mm	10.0 mm	80.0 mm
855180	8.0 mm	8.0 mm	11.0 mm	88.0 mm
855190	9.0 mm	9.0 mm	12.3 mm	98.0 mm

For detailed instructions, cautions and warnings and additional information, refer to the *Instructions for Use* supplied with each tracheostomy tube.

**Smiths Medical ASD, Inc.**  
Norwell, MA 02061, USA  
Phone: 1-214-618-0218  
Toll-Free USA: 1-800-258-5361  
**[www.smiths-medical.com](http://www.smiths-medical.com)**

Find your local  
contact information at:  
**[www.smiths-medical.com/  
customer-support](http://www.smiths-medical.com/customer-support)**

Product(s) described may not be licensed or available for sale in Canada or other countries outside of the United States. Portex, Bivona, Blue Line and the Portex and Smiths Medical design marks are trademarks of Smiths Medical. The symbol © indicates the trademark is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and certain other countries.  
©2011 Smiths Medical. All rights reserved. TR194444EN 03.2011

**smiths medical**