TITLE: Instillation of Normal Saline During Endotracheal Suctioning: Clinical Effectiveness and Guidelines for Use

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RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of the instillation of normal saline during endotracheal suctioning to remove mucous plugs?
2. What are the guidelines associated with the removal of mucous plugs?

METHODS:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 4, 2008), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international health technology agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results include articles published between 2003 and November 2008, and are limited to English language publications only. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Internet links are provided, where available.

RESULTS:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by controlled clinical trials, observational studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

One evidence-based guideline was identified pertaining to the use of saline during endotracheal suctioning. No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, controlled clinical trials, or observational studies were identified. Additional information that may be of interest has been included in the appendix.
Health technology assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses
No literature identified.

Controlled clinical trials
No literature identified.

Observational studies
No literature identified.

Guidelines and recommendations


See Guidelines for tracheobronchial suctioning

PREPARED BY:
Kristen Moulton, BA, Research Assistant
Ray Banks, AB, MA, MLS, Information Specialist
Health Technology Inquiry Service
Email: htis@cadth.ca
Tel: 1-866-898-8439
Guidelines and recommendations


   See Guidelines for Endotracheal Suctioning

Review articles

