

Passy-Muir® Valve (PMV): Caregiver Teaching

What is it?

The Passy-Muir® Valve (PMV) is a special device worn over the end (or hub) of your tracheostomy tube. It allows you to talk without using your fingers to block the tube.

Putting on and taking off your PMV

Supplies and positioning

- Before you begin, get all of your supplies ready: gloves, PMV, mirror, syringe (if your tracheostomy tube is cuffed) and any needed tracheostomy supplies i.e., trach dressing, gauze, etc.
- Always be in a comfortable position, sitting upright in front of a mirror.

Trach preparation

Suction or cough to clear excess secretions before the PMV placement.

Cuff deflation

Cuff must be deflated.

- Attach syringe to the *pilot balloon* and slowly withdraw air until the pilot balloon is flat.
- Suction as needed after deflating the cuff; you may experience coughing.

Placing the PMV

- Allow a few minutes to recover from suctioning, coughing and cuff deflation if necessary; check vital signs.
- Hold the neckplate with one hand while attaching PMV to the end (or hub) of tube. With other hand, use a firm twist clockwise. Do not use force.

Removing the PMV

- Place one hand on the neckplate. With other hand, gently twist the PMV counter-clockwise off the tube.
- Re-inflate your cuff (if you deflated it for placement).

Care and cleaning of your PMV

You should clean the PMV daily after wearing it and store it in a cool, dry place.

Supplies for cleaning

Use pure soap such as Ivory or Castille soap (not antibacterial soap), faucet, container for soapy water (not the storage container).

Procedure for cleaning

Follow this procedure for the “secure-it,” as well.

- Swish the PMV in Ivory liquid soap or Castille soap and warm water (not hot).
- Rinse thoroughly in warm running water.
- Allow to air dry thoroughly before storing.
Do not apply heat to dry the PMV. Occasionally clean the storage container also.
- Do not** use hot water, peroxide, bleach, vinegar, alcohol, brushes or Q-tips to clean your PMV.

The PMV should last at least two months if you care for it properly. If the PMV becomes sticky, noisy or vibrates during use, it is time to replace it.

Possible hazards/complications and what to do

Difficulty breathing with PMV on

- Need suctioning – Remove the PMV and suction/cough as needed.
- The cuff is not deflated completely – Immediately remove the PMV and deflate the cuff completely.

Excessive coughing/difficulty clearing secretions

- The airway is blocked – Remove the PMV, clean PMV if needed and suction/cough as needed.

Possible lung (respiratory) infection

- This may be due to bacteria growth. In addition to cleaning PMV every 24 hours, occasionally clean storage container.

Warnings

- Single person use only – do not share.
- Remove for sleeping/napping.
- Remove PMV before receiving medicated nebulizer treatments. If used during treatment by mistake, remove immediately and rinse thoroughly.

Reference: Adapted from *Passy-Muir Tracheostomy and Ventilator Speaking Valves Patient Handbook*, Passy-Muir, Inc., Irvine, CA; 800-634-5397.

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