

3

patient end of the nose 47 thereby has an asymmetric appearance about its axis.

With this arrangement, when the obturator 40 is slid along the guide wire 3' projecting from the skin or other tissue surface 61', the tip 48 of the obturator will contact the tissue surface squarely, without any pinch points.

It will be appreciated that the asymmetric tip could be used on other introducers or obturators and is not confined to use with tracheostomy tubes.

What we claim is:

1. An introducer for a medical tube having a patient end and a machine end, the introducer comprising: a machine end; a patient end nose having an axis and a patient end being arranged to protrude from a patient end of a tube; a passage extending through said patient end nose for receiving a guide wire; and an aperture through which said passage opens at a patient end of said patient end nose, the plane of said aperture extending at right angles to said passage and inclined away from a line at right angles to said axis.

2. An introducer according to claim 1, wherein the plane of said aperture is inclined away from the said line at right angles to said axis at an angle of about 8°.

3. An introducer according to claim 2, wherein said introducer includes a mount at its machine end adapted to engage a machine end of said tube, and a strap extending between said nose and said mount.

4. An introducer according to claim 1, wherein said introducer includes a mount at a machine end adapted to engage a machine end of said medical tube, and a strap extending between the said patient end nose and said mount.

5. An assembly including in combination a medical tube having a patient end and a machine end and an introducer,

4

said introducer comprising: a patient end nose having a patient end arranged to protrude from a patient end of said tube; a passage extending through said patient end nose for receiving a guide wire; and an aperture through which said passage opens at a patient end of said patient end nose, the plane of said aperture extending at right angles to said passage and inclined away from a line at right angles to said axis.

6. An assembly including a tracheostomy tube having a patient end and a machine end and an introducer, said introducer comprising: a patient end nose having a patient end arranged to protrude from the patient end of said tracheostomy tube; a passage extending through said patient end nose for receiving a guide wire; and an aperture through which said passage opens at the patient end of said patient end nose, the plane of said aperture extending at right angles to said passage and inclined away from a line at right angles to said axis.

7. An assembly including a tracheostomy tube having a patient end and a machine end, an introducer and a guide wire, wherein said introducer comprises: a patient end nose having a patient end arranged to protrude from the patient end of said tracheostomy tube; a passage extending through said patient end nose along which said guide wire extends; and an aperture through which said guidewire protrudes at the patient end of said patient end nose, wherein the plane of said aperture extends at right angles to said passage and is inclined away from a line at right angles to said axis.

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