

[54] ENDOTRACHEAL CATHETER

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[57] ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for introducing oxygen or a saline solution directly into the trachea in order to facilitate respiration. The apparatus includes a sharp pointed magnetic stylet, a similarly shaped rounded end magnetic probe, and a radiopaque flexible bulbed end plastic catheter tube with three equally spaced axially embedded memory wires.

The small diameter catheter tube and the incorporated magnetic stylet is inserted through the wall of the throat and through the flesh and wall of the trachea between the second and third tracheal rings.

The retraction and removal of the magnetic stylet causes the expansion of the catheter and locks the tube end inside the tracheal wall. The catheter tube is the vessel for the conveyance of oxygen or a saline solution into the trachea. Insertion of the magnetic probe into the catheter tube causes the contraction of the catheter tube end and allows same to be removed and reinserted as necessary.

4 Claims, 6 Drawing Figures

