

From Tracheostomy to Decannulation: A Journey

The following illustrates one child's journey from tracheostomy to decannulation.

- Photo (a) illustrates the child at 7 weeks old, 5 weeks after a tracheostomy tube was placed.
- Photo (b) illustrates the use of an HME during waking hours.
- Photo (c) shows the use of Passy-Muir speaking valve, allowing for vocalization.
- Photo (d) was taken one hour after decannulation. The patient is still in the hospital under the care of an otolaryngologist. The stoma is clearly visible.
- Photo (e) illustrates the presence of the trach stoma of this child one year after decannulation. The stoma, though small, was not yet closed. Surgical closure for this child has not been performed because of continual concern of small airway.

a. trached infant



c. speaking valve



e. trach free



b. humidification filter



d. decannulation