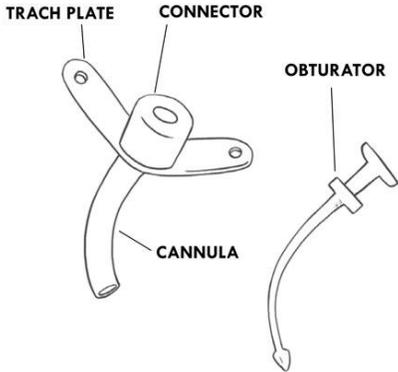


Simple tracheal cannula and components

<p>Body of the tracheal tube, commonly called "cannula"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion of the cannula inserted internally into the trachea and therefore invisible externally. • Helps to keep the tracheostomy open (patent). • Helps the passage of air in and out of the lungs and facilitates the suctioning of secretions. 	 <p>The diagram illustrates the components of a simple tracheal cannula. On the left, a 'TRACH PLATE' is shown with a 'CONNECTOR' attached to its center. A 'CANNULA' is shown extending from the connector. On the right, an 'OBTURATOR' is shown, which is a curved tube with a rounded tip and a T-shaped handle at the top.</p>
<p>Flanges or neck collar or trach plate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External, visible portion of the tracheal cannula that rests on the neck. • Openings on each side of the flanges are present to allow for insertion of ties (a Velcro® band or ribbons) that wrap around the back of the neck to hold the tracheal cannula in place. • Serves as a point of anchor on which to place the fingers and stabilize the cannula when providing care. 	
<p>Connector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External, visible portion of the cannula. • Opening through which air can pass into the lungs. • Opening through which suction catheters can be inserted into the tracheal cannula. • Permits the connection of the tracheal cannula to an artificial nose (heat and moisture exchanger), a speaking valve, a ventilatory bag and/or a respirator. 	
<p>Obturator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used when changing a tracheal cannula. • Serves as a guide during the introduction and proper placement of the tracheal cannula in the trachea. • The rounded tip allows for a smooth insertion and minimal irritation to the tracheal walls. • Must be removed immediately once the tracheal cannula is in place because it completely blocks the passage of air. 	