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Letter to the Editor

Tracheobronchial Haemorrhage in patients with neuromuscular disorders by Francesca Iodice, MD

It is with great interest that we have read the report by Francesca Iodice et al. on their retrospective study evaluating different tracheostomy tubes in patients with neuromuscular disease. They suggest that adjustable tracheostomy tubes are the most beneficial for these patients. At the Respiratory Unit, Danderyd University Hospital we have since more than 20 years individually modified cannulas for patients with neuromuscular disease or difficult anatomy. In our experience it is of great importance that the tip of the cannula is centered in the trachea. To achieve this, the curvature of the cannula often has to be rotated in relation to the flange. Our major point is: How tracheostomy tubes are fitted into the trachea still needs to be

emphasized. The easiest way to make sure is by fiberoptic tracheoscopy.¹ To have regular check-ups is another important issue for patients with long-term tracheostomy.

Reference

1. Markstrom A, et al. Quality of life evaluation of patients with non-invasive and invasive home mechanical ventilation. *Chest* 2002;122(5):1695–700.

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