# CareTips

Topic 7:
Provox voice prosthesis Is your VP leaking?

## Is your voice prosthesis (VP) leaking?

#### Typical signs of your voice prosthesis leaking

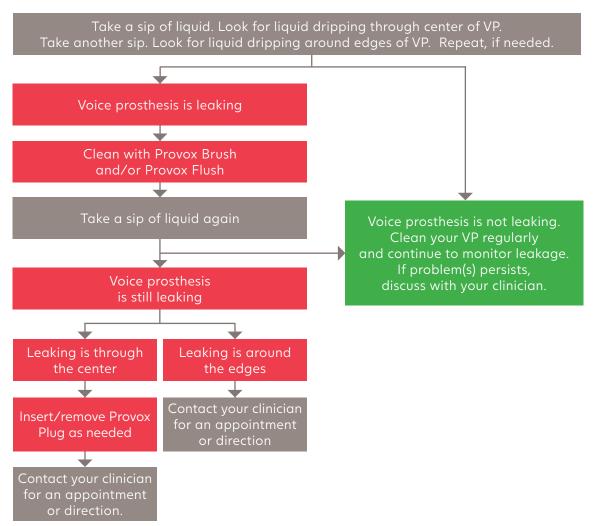
- Coughing during or after eating and drinking
- Fluid/food-stained mucus

- Increased mucus
- Recurrent chest infections



#### **Leakage Test**

- 1. Wash your hands with warm, soapy water for 20 seconds.
- 2. Position yourself in front of a well-lit mirror.
- 3. Clean your Provox® voice prosthesis with a Provox® Brush and/or a Provox® Flush.
- 4. Follow the leakage test below using colored liquid (e.g. milk or coffee) as this is easier to see.





Provox Brush and Provox Flush



Provox Plug and Provox Vega Plug



### How to use a Provox® Plug or Provox® Vega™ Plug

Use the correct Plug for the model and size of your voice prosthesis

- Provox Vega Plug for Provox® Vega™ and Provox® Vega™ XtraSeal™ The Provox Vega Plug diameter should match the diameter of the voice prosthesis; 17, 20 or 22.5Fr.
- Use Provox Plug for Provox® ActiValve® and Provox®2.
- 1. Wash your hands with warm, soapy water for 20 seconds making sure to wash in between your fingers and both sides of your hands.
- 2. Clean the Plug with warm soapy water and rinse with clean water (Fig. 1).
- 3. Place the Plug on the back of the Provox Brush (Fig. 2).
- 4. Insert the Plug into center of the voice prosthesis (Fig. 3). You will need to apply some pressure to put the Plug in place (Fig. 4) which might make you cough. Make sure to have tissues ready, just in case.
- 5. Secure the Plug by taping it to your neck with skin friendly tape (Fig. 5). To keep using your HME while the Plug is in place, you can pull it through the center of the adhesive (Fig. 6). Insert and remove the HME carefully to avoid pulling the Plug out unintentionally. You can also place the adhesive on top of the Plug strap, if advised by your clinician.
- 6. You will not be able to speak with your VP while the Plug is in place. Once you are finished eating/drinking, you can carefully remove the Plug by gently pulling on strap so you can speak again.
- 7. Clean the Plug and store Provox Plug in a clean container.

Always clean the Provox Plug before you insert it and after you have removed it. Clean in warm, soapy water (min. 122°F/50°C and two drops of dish soap to 8.5oz/250mL water). Disinfect the Plug at least once per day. Use one of the following methods:

- 70% Ethanol for 10 minutes
- 70% Isopropyl alcohol for 10 minutes
- 3% Hydrogen peroxide for 60 minutes

#### Tips

- If you have difficulty inserting the Provox Plug, ask someone to help you. They should wear protective equipment such as a mask, because you might cough when the Plug is inserted. You might consider leaving the Plug in place until you can see your clinician. Be cautious when removing the HME and adhesive to avoid pulling on the Plug strap which could pull the Plug out.
- When you have a Plug in place, you will not be able to speak with your voice prosthesis. Consider using a Provox® Electrolarynx during those times. Discuss your options with your clinician.
- Video instructions are available at www.atosmedical.us.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2





Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



