

What to do if your voice prosthesis (VP) falls out of the tracheoesophageal puncture (TEP)

Do not panic, assess the situation*

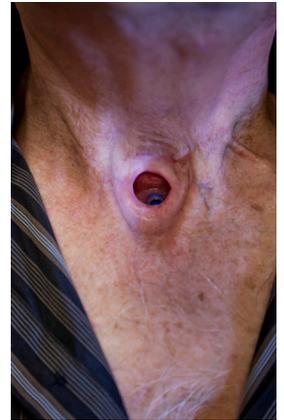
1. Are you having difficulty breathing?
 - **If so, seek medical attention immediately**
2. Is the voice prosthesis lost? Do you believe the voice prosthesis fell into your trachea (windpipe) and possibly into your lungs?
 - **If so, seek medical attention immediately**
3. Follow the below instructions from your clinician and/or physician on what to do in this situation (to be completed in coordination with your clinician and/or physician). Keep this information handy as a reference.

4. No matter your situation, try not to swallow. Saliva can pass through the tracheoesophageal puncture, into your windpipe and down into your lungs causing you to cough.
5. Your puncture can close in a matter of hours to days. Once you follow your clinician and/or physician's instructions, contact them as soon as possible to let them know what has happened.

Tip: Unless the puncture has closed naturally or is sealed by a catheter, you should still be able to talk by temporarily placing your thumb over your stoma opening and talking normally.

Tip: As a laryngectomy, always carry identification that you or a caregiver can present to first responders or emergency room personnel telling them that you breathe through a stoma in your neck and not your nose and mouth. It may be helpful to carry a small illustration showing where your voice prosthesis would normally be in place.

***If any problems are noticed that are not listed here, the patient should still take action to investigate where the prosthesis went. The reported incidence of Provox® voice prostheses falling out are rare.**



Suggested items to carry with you

The following items can be useful to have on hand if your voice prosthesis falls out, and it is not in your windpipe or lungs:

- Something to keep the puncture open like an all purpose catheter, per your clinician's instructions or prescription
- Water soluble lubricating jelly (Surgilube® or K-Y Jelly®)
- Emergency Card (shown below)
- Medical tape
- Mirror
- Flashlight
- Plastic blunt-tip tweezers
- Provox® Cleaning Towel

If you go to the Emergency Room, please bring this instruction sheet with you.

EMERGENCY CARD - NECK BREATHER
I ONLY BREATHE THROUGH AN OPENING IN MY NECK

My Name: _____

ICE Contact:
Tel: _____

Clinician:
Tel: _____

I Use a Voice Prosthesis: Yes No (if yes, see below)
Type: _____ Fr: _____ mm: _____

IMPORTANT INFORMATION INSIDE ▶

EMERGENCY CARD - NECK BREATHER
I AM A LARYNGECTOMEE - NO VOCAL CORDS



www.atosmedical.us/resources/emergency **Atos**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION INSIDE ◀

© Atos Medical Inc, 2019 | MCC0650, 120919

Front of Emergency Card: Complete the information and keep this card with you.

Back

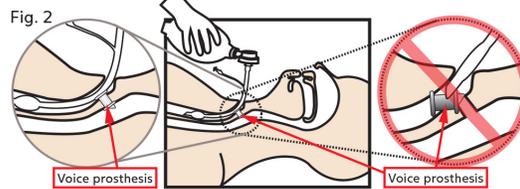
RESCUE BREATHING FOR LARYNGECTOMEES

Fig. 1



VOICE PROSTHESIS USER ONLY

Fig. 2



For medical professionals only: Intubate carefully using the appropriate size ET tube without dislodging the voice prosthesis (see Fig. 2). If voice prosthesis is accidentally removed, immediately place an all-purpose catheter of an appropriate size to prevent choking/aspiration.

MY MOUTH AND NOSE ARE NOT CONNECTED TO MY LUNGS. I CAN ONLY BREATHE THROUGH MY NECK.

Inside