



# Suctioning

EMT-Basic

Advanced EMT

Paramedic

## PROCEDURE

- Select flexible or rigid suction catheter
- Open mouth using the scissor finger technique and insert suction catheter into mouth/pharynx to be suctioned
- Apply suction as catheter is being withdrawn from mouth/pharynx for no more than 10 seconds at a time
- Provide patient with assisted ventilations and or oxygen as needed

## ET TUBE OR STOMA

- Use a sterile catheter in ET tube or stoma for every attempt
- Insert suction catheter in opening until it reaches resistance.
- Suction for no more than 10 seconds at a time
- If secretions are too thick, add 2.5-5cc of normal saline to thin secretions prior to suctioning

## REFERENCE GRAPHICS



## KEY POINTS

- Clears foreign material and liquids from the airways
- Can cause hypoxia, oral trauma and may stimulate vomiting
- Infant patients will require a lower suction setting to prevent lung injury, ensure your suction unit is turned down before suctioning (~100 mmHg)