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*Specializing in the treatment of diseases
of the ear, nose, throat and sinus*

PATIENT INFORMATION MATERIAL

Tracheotomy

Tracheostomy (also called tracheotomy) is a surgical opening of the windpipe to allow breathing when the larynx (voice box) is obstructed, to permit long-term ventilation of the lungs through a tube inserted into the neck opening. Although often performed as an emergency for life-threatening situations, tracheostomy may also be required for urgent or elective reasons. The main complication is bleeding. Other complications include infection, neurovascular damage (such as injury to the nerve supplying the voice box), pneumothorax (collapsed lung), respiratory distress, scarring of the trachea, and air under the skin (subcutaneous emphysema). Because most patients who require a tracheotomy are very sick, cardiac complications could also occur, including heart arrest.

I/We have been given an opportunity to ask questions about my condition, alternative forms of treatment, risks of nontreatment, the procedures to be used, and the risks and hazards involved, and I/we have sufficient information to give this informed consent. I/We certify this form has been fully explained to me/us, and I/we understand its contents. I/We understand every effort will be made to provide a positive outcome, but there are no guarantees.

I HAVE COMPLETELY READ AND DO
UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE SURGERY
INFORMATION

Signature

Date _____

Witness

Date _____