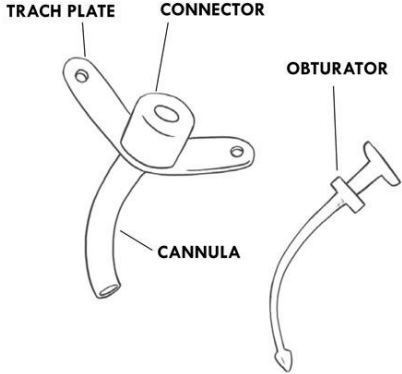


Simple tracheal cannula and components

<p>Body of the tracheal tube, commonly called “cannula”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion of the cannula inserted internally into the trachea and therefore invisible externally. • Helps to keep the tracheostomy open (patent). • Helps the passage of air in and out of the lungs and facilitates the suctioning of secretions. 	 <p>The diagram illustrates the components of a simple tracheal cannula. On the left, the cannula is shown with its tracheal plate (flange) at the top, a connector in the middle, and the cannula tube extending downwards. Labels with leader lines point to the 'TRACH PLATE', 'CONNECTOR', and 'CANNULA'. To the right, an 'OBTURATOR' is shown, which is a curved tube with a rounded tip and a handle at the top.</p>
<p>Flanges <u>or</u> neck collar <u>or</u> trach plate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External, visible portion of the tracheal cannula that rests on the neck. • Openings on each side of the flanges are present to allow for insertion of ties (a Velcro® band or ribbons) that wrap around the back of the neck to hold the tracheal cannula in place. • Serves as a point of anchor on which to place the fingers and stabilize the cannula when providing care. 	
<p>Connector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External, visible portion of the cannula. • Opening through which air can pass into the lungs. • Opening through which suction catheters can be inserted into the tracheal cannula. • Permits the connection of the tracheal cannula to an artificial nose (heat and moisture exchanger), a speaking valve, a ventilatory bag and/or a respirator. 	
<p>Obturator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used when changing a tracheal cannula. • Serves as a guide during the introduction and proper placement of the tracheal cannula in the trachea. • The rounded tip allows for a smooth insertion and minimal irritation to the tracheal walls. • Must be removed immediately once the tracheal cannula is in place because it completely blocks the passage of air. 	