

Fiberoptic bronchoscopy assisted percutaneous tracheostomy Report of 100 patients Traqueostomía percutánea con asistencia fibrobroncoscópica: Evaluación prospectiva de 100 casos consecutivos y revisión de la literatura

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Background: Development of percutaneous techniques for tracheostomy have facilitated its implementation in the intensive care unit (ICU). Aim: To evaluate the safety of performing percutaneous tracheostomy (PT) using the Ciaglia Blue Rhino technique with fiberoptic bronchoscopy assistance in patients with prolonged mechanical ventilation. Patients and methods: Prospective evaluation of 100 consecutive patients aged 62 ± 26 years (38 women) subjected to percutaneous tracheostomy. All procedures were performed in the ICU. Demographic variables, APACHE II, days of mechanical ventilation before PT, operative and post operative complications were recorded. Results: Mean APACHE II score was 20 ± 3 . Patients required on average 16 ± 7 days of mechanical ventilation before PT. Eight patients (8%) had operative complications. One had an episode of transient desaturation, one had a transient hypotension related to sedation and six had mild bleeding not requiring transfusion. No patient required conversion.