

# High Tech Kids



# Objectives:

Define a High Tech Kid.

Familiarize self with equipment used by high tech kid!

Common conditions encountered with high tech child.

Psychosocial needs of high tech child and their family!

Emergency Care of the high tech kid!

# High Tech Kid

defined as a child who is born with or develops a condition that requires assistive devices to assure basic life functions.



**Greatest source of info!**

# Mechanical Ventilators

# Equipment

Suction

Tracheostomies

Apnea Monitors

Feeding tubes

Development devices

Transportation Devices

Speech Assistive Devices

# Mechanical Ventilators

increased survival rate  
of chronically ill

movement to reduce  
hospital costs thus  
discharge earlier

for children with  
hypoventilation and  
chronic respiratory  
failure



usually hypoxic and hypercarbic  
-most will have a tracheostomy

How do you assess a patient with airway compromise who is intubated?



# DOPE

Dislodgement

Obstruction

Pneumothorax

Equipment Failure



# Dislodgement

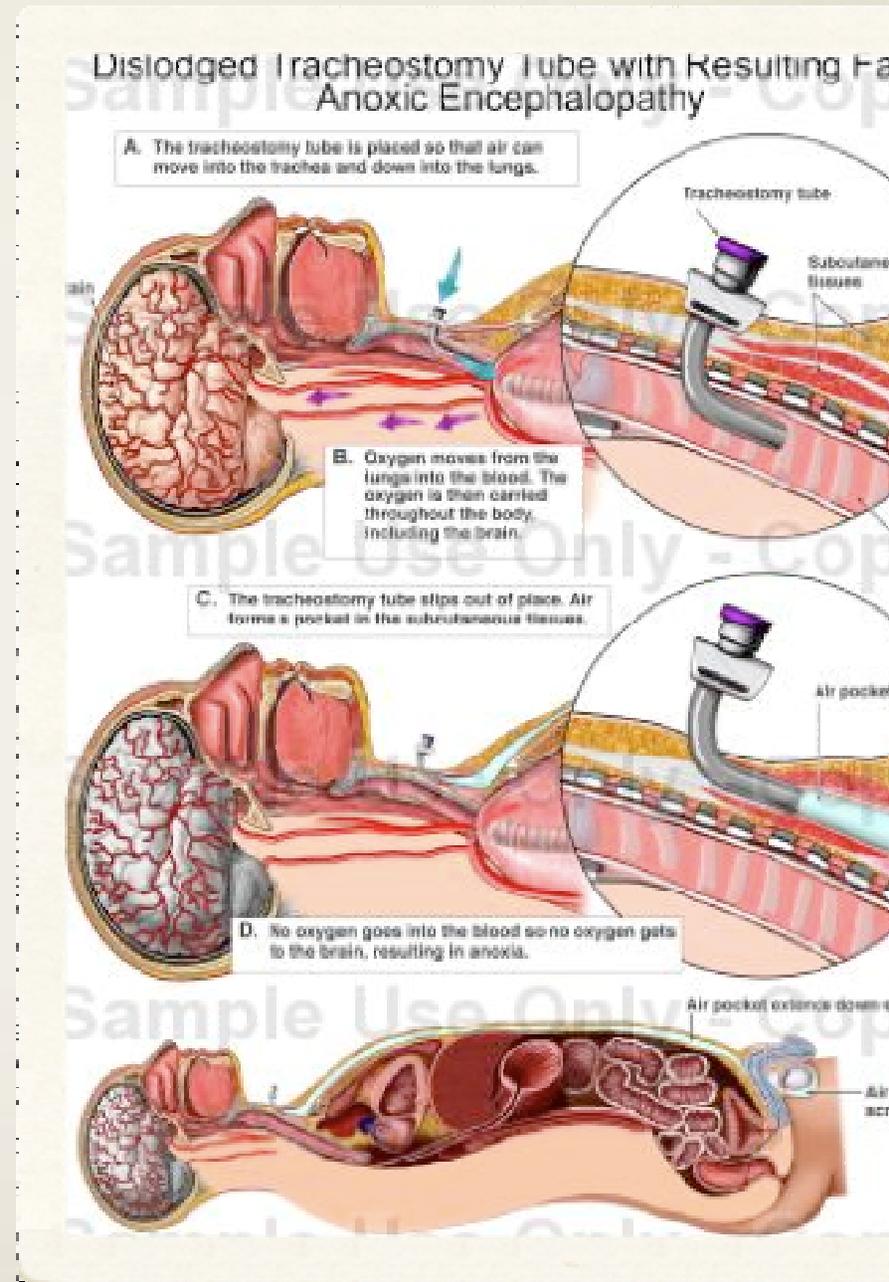
try to ventilate

if unsuccessful place 0.9% saline  
wet down tube (no more than  
10ccs) to see if mucus plug and  
suction

if unsuccessful deflate balloon on  
trach (if one present) and remove  
trach-if replace with new trach  
make sure to use obturator

use bag valve mask over face

do not try to replace trach  
especially if recently placed as



# Obstruction

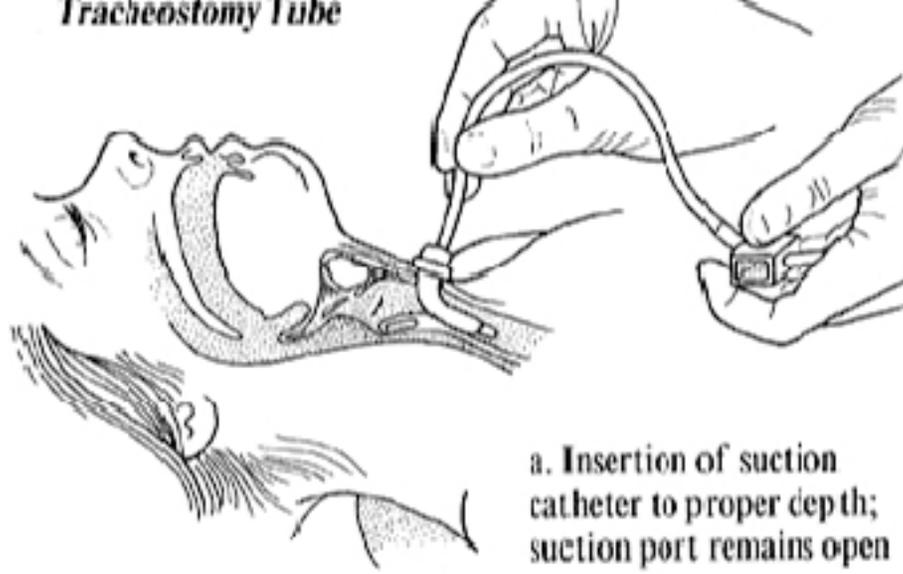
It is more difficult for the child with a tracheostomy to clear secretions adequately by coughing so the tube needs special care to prevent it blocking with secretions

Suction if the following:

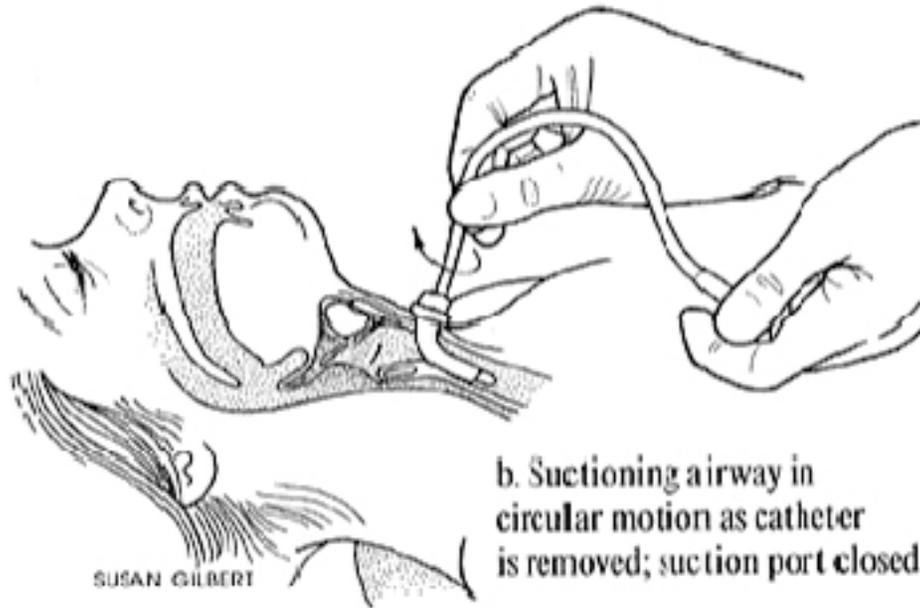
- noisy breathing (the sound of air bubbling through secretions)
- visible secretions at the tracheostomy tube opening
- a cough with the sound of secretions in the tube
- restlessness, crying (crying also increases the amount of secretions)
- increased respiratory rate, working hard to breathe



*Tracheostomy Tube*



a. Insertion of suction catheter to proper depth; suction port remains open



b. Suctioning airway in circular motion as catheter is removed; suction port closed

SUSAN GILBERT

# Tracheal Suctioning

# Suction

may have to suction more than one time

only suction on way out

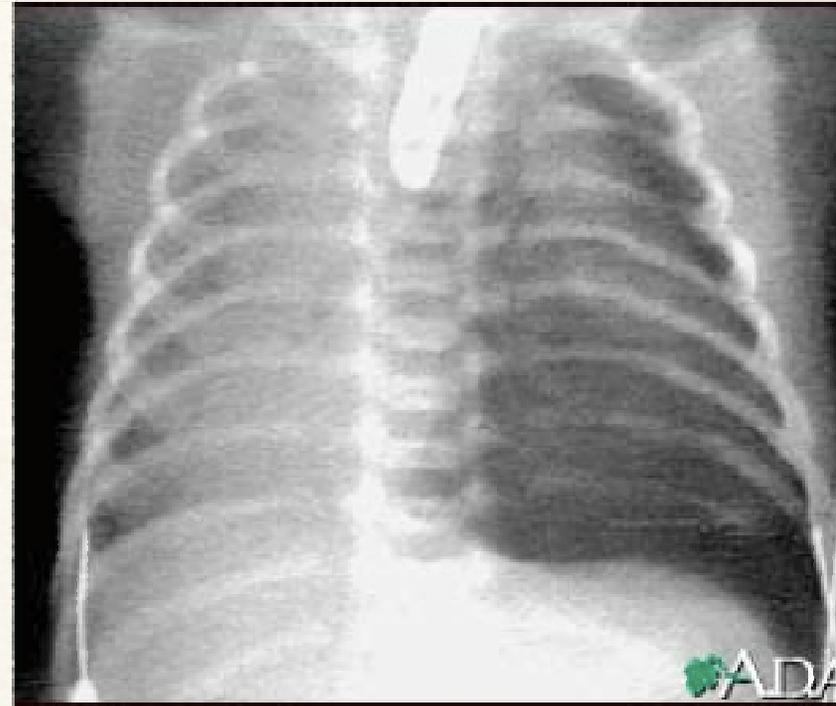
no more than 5-6 seconds

may use saline bullets to loosen secretions

no more than 100 mmHg suction pressure

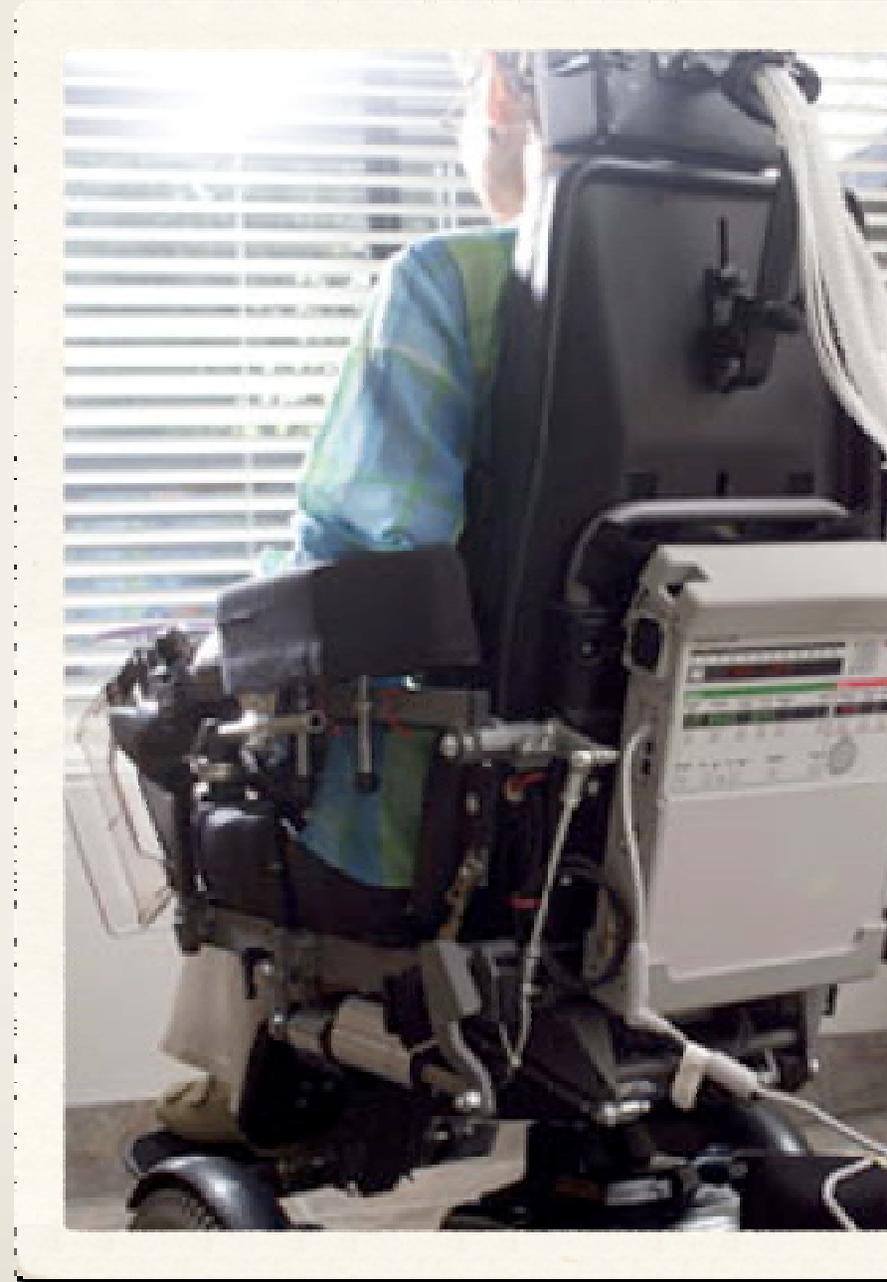
# Pneumothorax

Premature neonates  
on MV are at high risk  
simple or complicated  
tension pneumothorax  
is a life threatening  
emergency



# Equipment Failure

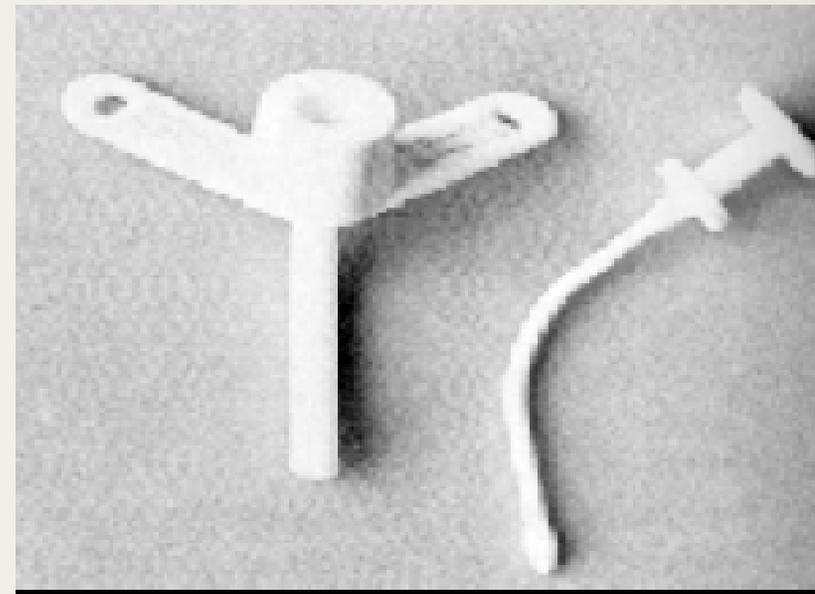
If you suspect this  
remove from  
equipment  
(mechanical ventilator)  
and bag using bag  
valve trach



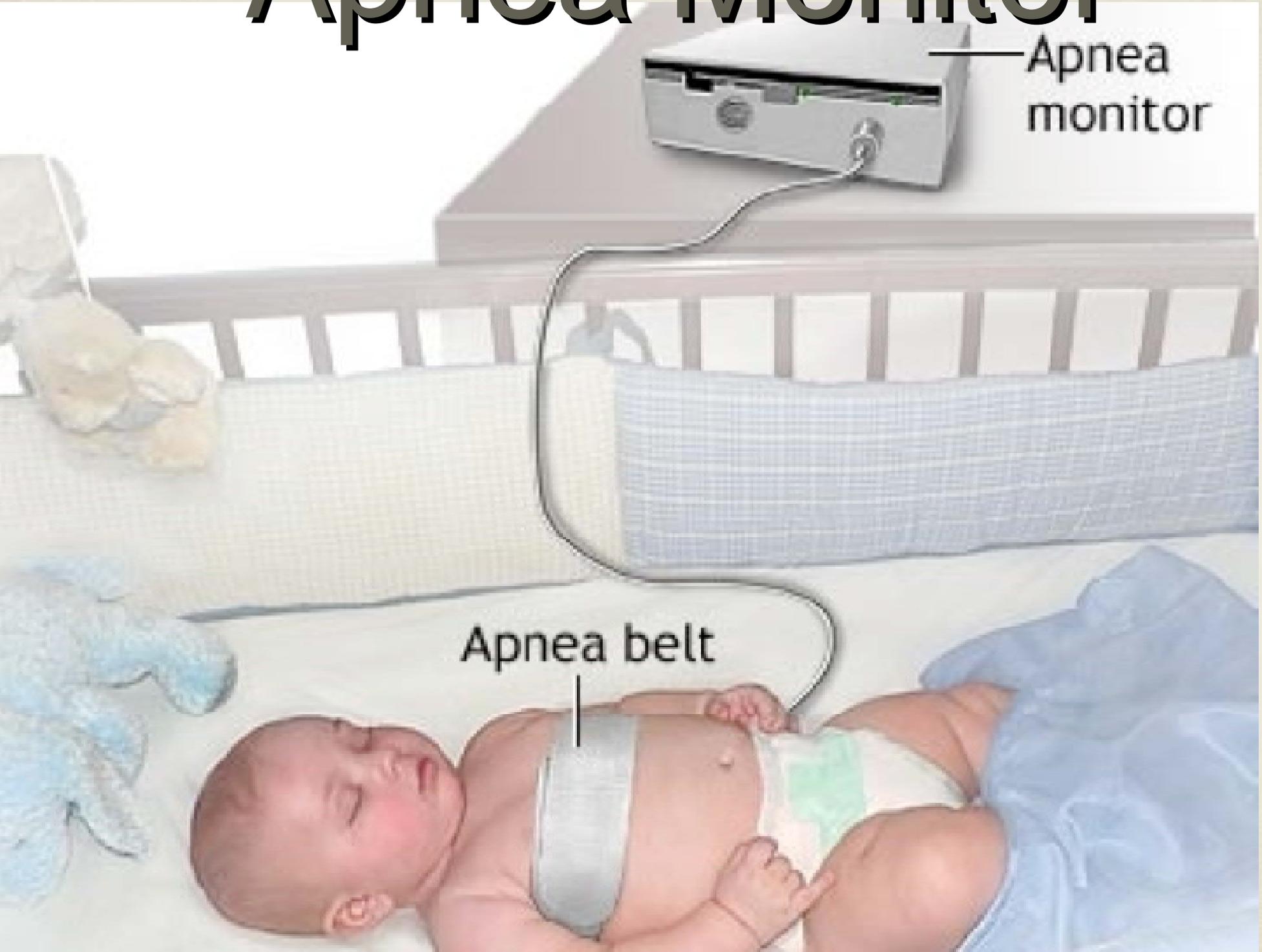
# Tracheostomies

may be cuffed or  
uncuffed

remember these  
bypass normal  
respiratory passages  
that filter air



# Apnea Monitor



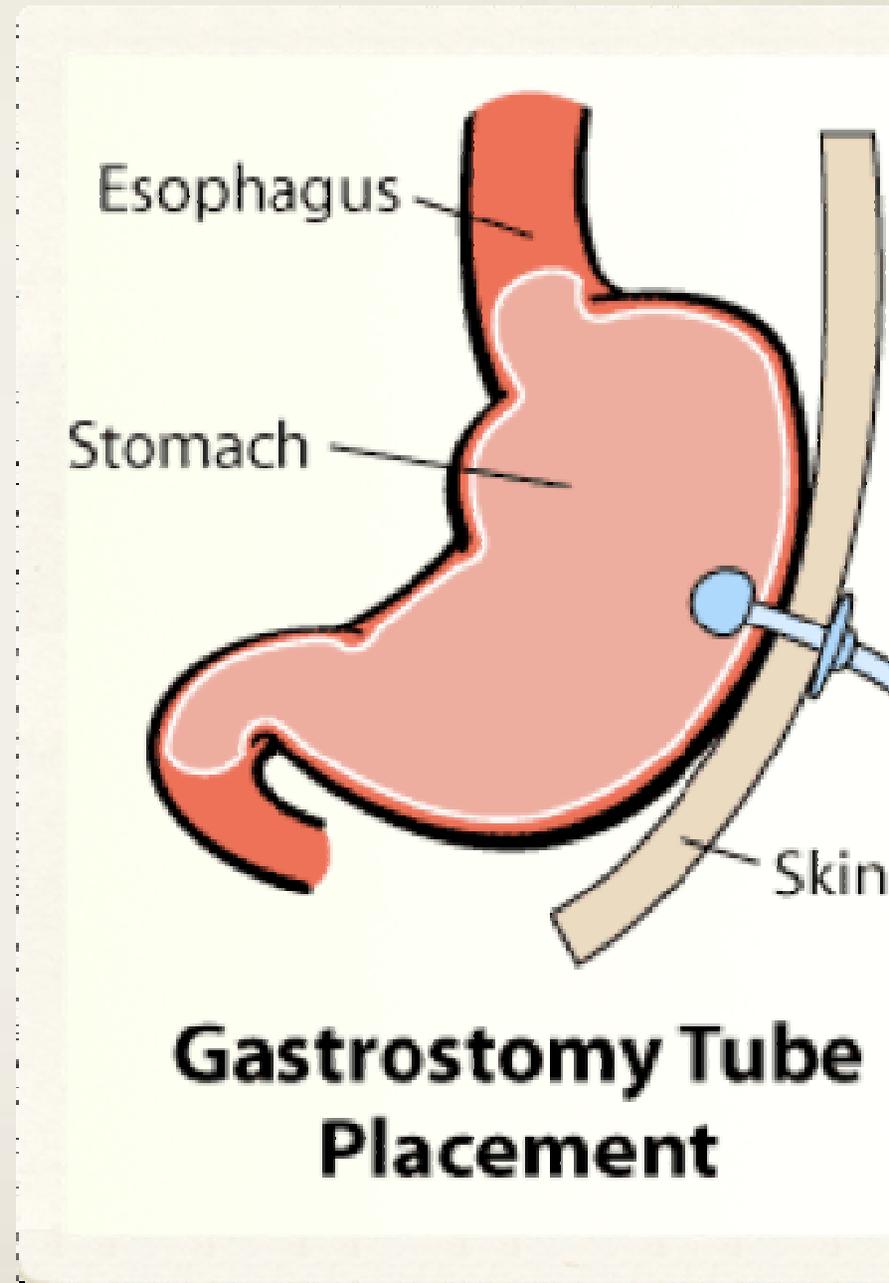
Apnea  
monitor

Apnea belt

# Feeding Tubes

can be a source of  
infection (sepsis)

DO not administer  
feedings especially if  
child has altered  
ventilatory status from  
THEIR norm.



# Transportation Devices

If you choose to transport patient in your ambulance you would place patient on your stretcher. Pad patient as necessary!

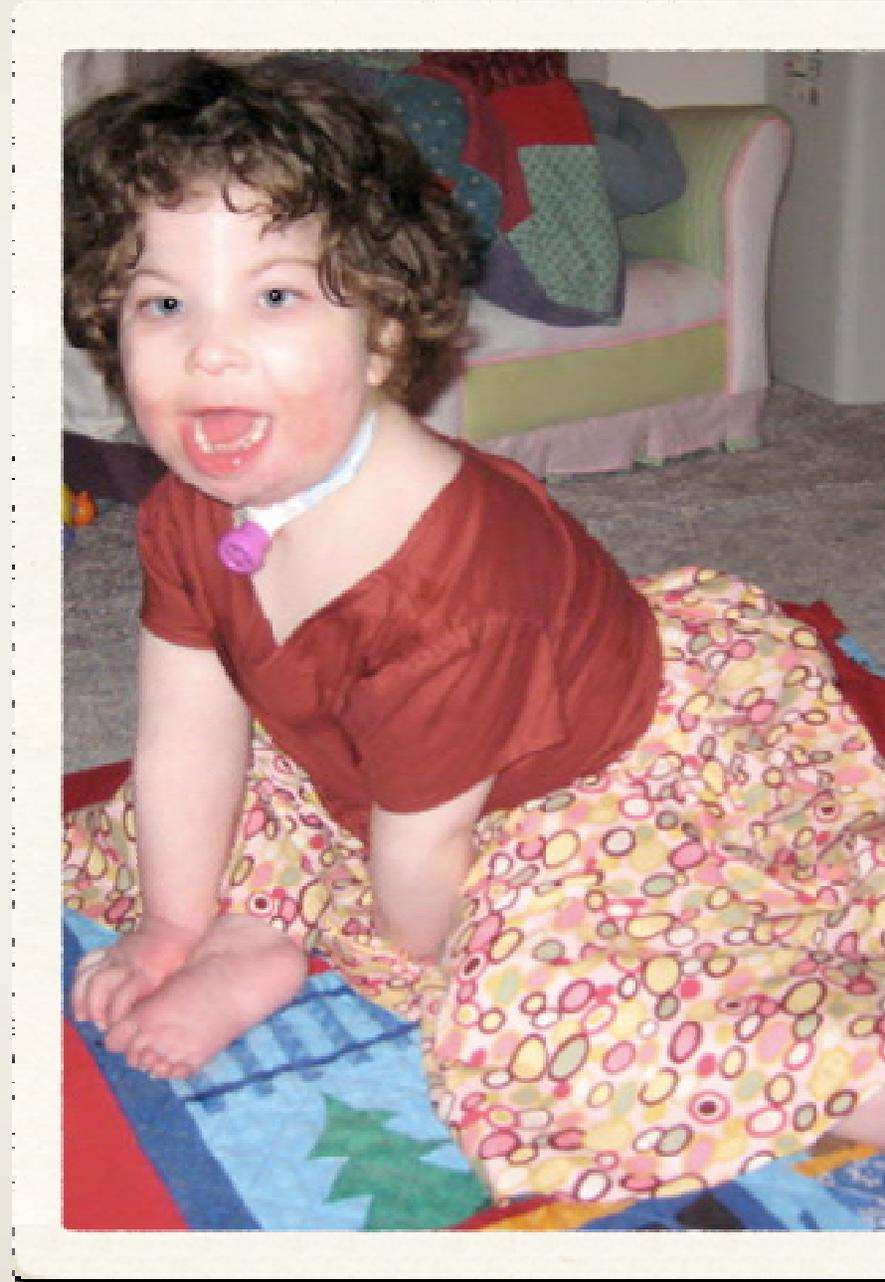


# Speech Assistive Devices

## Passy Muir Valve

If in place and  
respiratory  
compromise then  
remove it and treat  
patient as usual!

Used to develop and  
strengthen patients  
vocal cords!



# Common Conditions Found in High Tech Kids

Pierre-Robin Syndrome

Moebius Syndrome

Cerebral Palsy

Downs Syndrome

Congenital Heart Defects

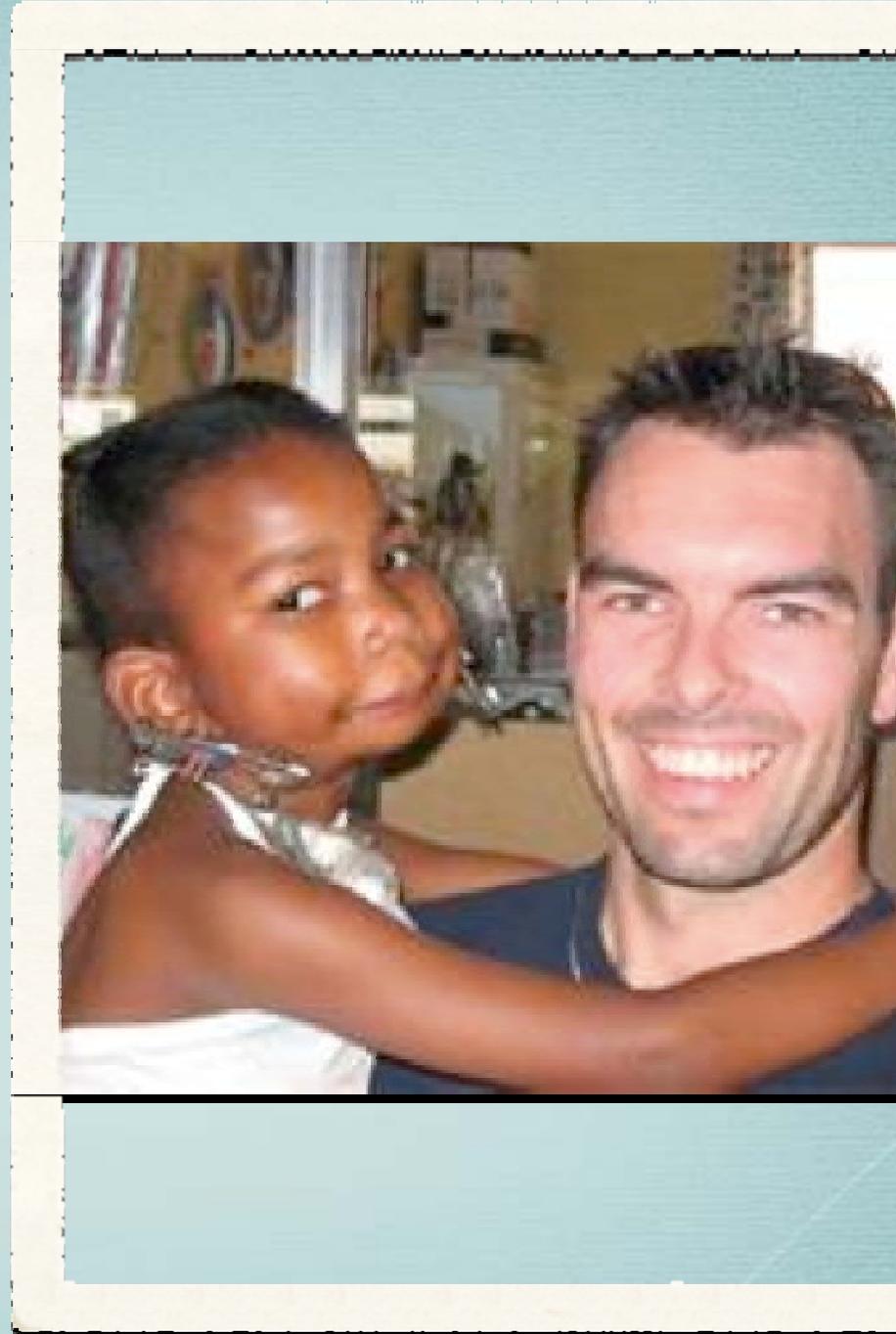
Epilepsy

# Pierre Robin Syndrome

usually accompanied by  
a cleft palate!

small lower jaw

VERY DIFFICULT  
INTUBATION



# Moebius Syndrome

born without cranial nerves VI and VII

deformed tongue and jaw

hand and/or foot deformities (one third of cases), such as club foot or missing fingers

low muscle tone, meaning the child has trouble sitting or crawling

swallowing or breathing problems



# Cerebral Palsy

neurological disorder

-ataxia

-spasticity

varied degrees of presentation



# Downs Syndrome

aka Trisomy 21

- impaired cognition
- altered growth
- facial presentation

High Risk for CHD!



# Congenital Heart Defect

responsible for more deaths than any other congenital defect in the first year of life

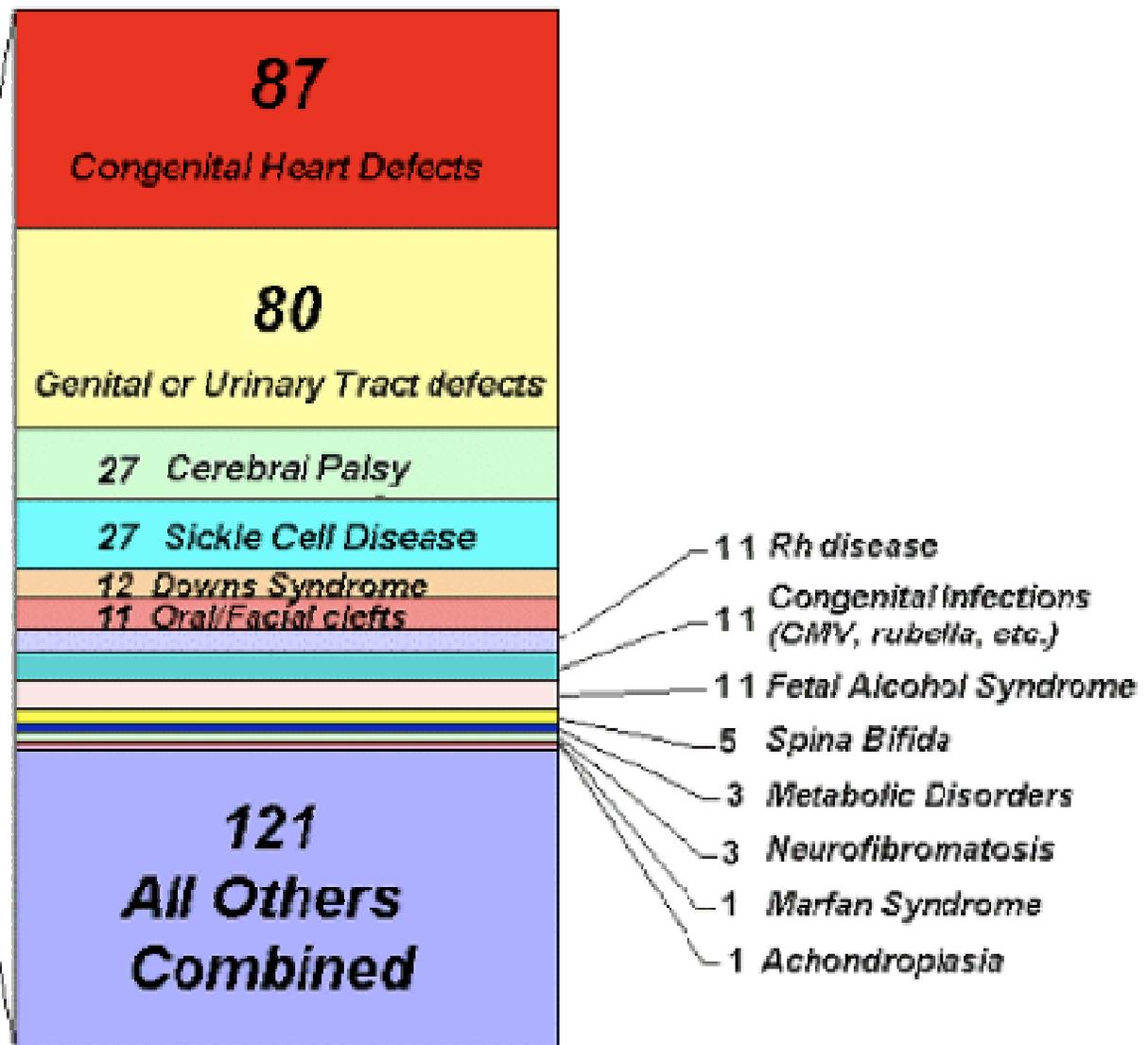
Ranges from Mild to so severe they require heart transplant

Some defects do not present until the child is a couple of years old

Some require several cardiac surgeries

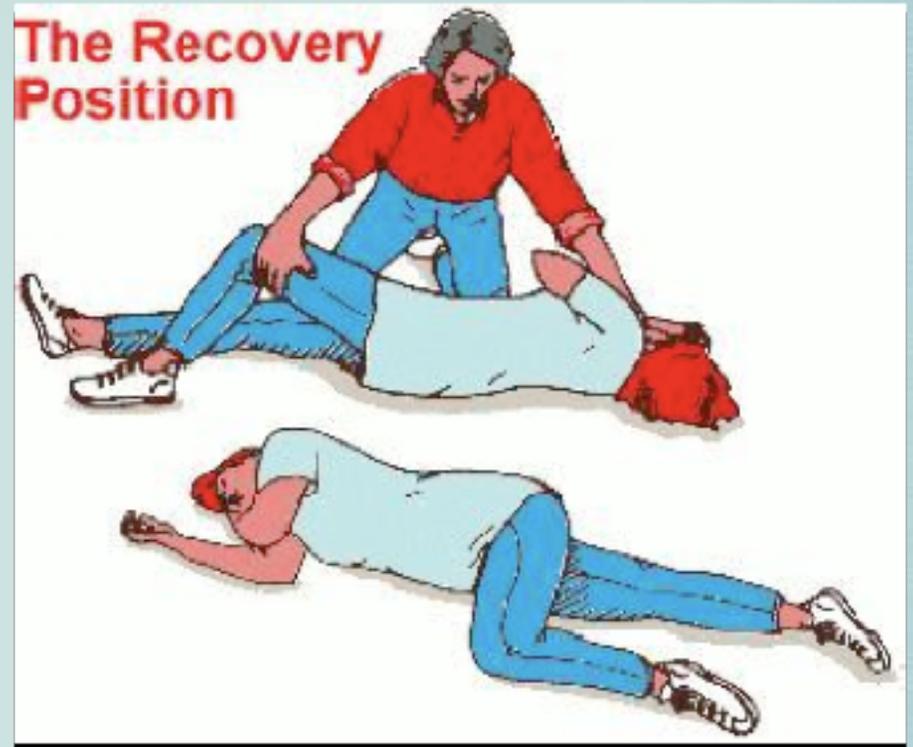
Each day in the US  
10,830 babies are born.

411 of them  
are born with  
a birth defect.



# Epilepsy

- recurrent seizures
  - protect child
  - primary survey
- suction oxygen prn
- SAMPLE





ventilator dependent we had more  
← to carry!



low there  
re just

# Psychosocial Needs

the child is a human being

treat them with dignity and respect

LISTEN to their caregivers

Expect exhausted caregivers

Remember parents equipment needs!

Let parents be involved!

# Psychosocial Needs

What is child's developmental age?

Be a resource of information and community resources for family.

# Emergency Care of Special Needs Child

Remember these children have their ABC's  
maintained for them on a regular basis!

# Emergency Care Circulation

Treat as any other child!

# Patient # 1

You receive request to respond to a residence for a child who is turning pale! Upon arrival you are met by the father who gives you history.



Patient # 1

continued

From your preplanning and the SAMPLE information from father you learn that Desmin has Moebius Syndrome. She has been baseline until after her tracheostomy was changed earlier today. Now she is short of breath more than usual today!

Patient # 1

# You reach child:

Discuss PAT (Pediatric Assessment Triangle)

child is limp

lethargic

intercostal retractions

grunting

PMV on child

# Patient # 1

What are your courses of action?

# Airway, Airway, Airway

Remove PMV

saline bullet

suction

bag valve (use emergency kit at residence that is  
presized for that pt)

difficulty bagging

# Discussion?

# Patient # 2

Child sent home  
yesterday after cardiac  
surgery!

You receive call for  
respiratory distress!



Patient # 2

continued

When you enter the residence you notice the child  
apneic!

Child is on mechanical ventilation!

# Patient # 2

What next?

# Summary

Your best resource of information is your caregiver.  
They are familiar with what the child's baseline is.  
Use the equipment on a regular basis. Use your  
resource! Keep them involved!

**Any Questions?**