- Tracheotomy = surgical opening in the airway
- Tracheostomy = creation of stoma between trachea and cervical skin
To trach or not to trach...

- Anatomic abnormalities
- Long-term intubation and ventilation
  - Minimize oropharyngeal and laryngeal injury
- Potential benefits:
  - Less sedation
  - Ease of pulmonary toilet
  - Safer transport
- Disposition
Tracheostomy as a bridge therapy
Downsize checklist

- A extra hand
- Awake, alert, calm, participative patient
- Eye protection, NO white coat
- Continuous pulse oximetry
- New tracheostomy tube with obturator and inner cannula
- Balloon for cuff
- Tube exchanger (red rubber, NGT)
- Blue rhino kit
- Airway bag

Passy muir valve
cuff down
Uh oh…

- Called to bedside on 9S, patient pulled his tracheostomy out. What do you want to know?
  - How old is the tracheostomy?
    - Greater than one week → replace trach
    - Less than one week → look at patient, assess airway needs, get help, intubate from above
When in doubt

- INTUBATE FROM ABOVE
  - Bag patient (occluding tracheostoma)
  - Call for airway bag and help
  - Order RSI meds
Hmm…

- Called to bedside for bleeding from tracheostomy
  - Common
    - Bloody secretions
    - Bleeding at surgical site
  - Bleeding from a tracheoinnominate fistula is brisk and immediately life threatening

http://www.google.com/imgres?q=tracheoinnominate+fistula&start=71&um=1&hl=en&client=firefox-a&source=org.mozilla-\_US&sa=1\&rlz=1I2980dblh\_en-US537&tbm=isch&tbnid=LmQFQ4OKaM6o4M:&imgrefurl=http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayFulltext\_fromPage\_3From\_3Donline\_3Dtype\_3D6\_3Dfid\_3DS0022215110000253\_26aid\_3DS7844140\_26next\_3Dtrue\_26jcid\_3DjLO124\_26volume\_3D124\_26issue\_3D08\_26next\_3DY\_docid\_106880V0EpfkG&imgurl=http://journals.cambridge.org/fulltext\_content/JLO/jlo124_08/s0022215110000836\_fig1t.gif&w=200&h=223&ei=nBoTUPzyj4um8gTa94D4t&zoom=1&iact=rc&dur=262&sig=1024071515835585858574&page=4&rn=144&bnw=127&ved=1t:429r:13a:71l:215&tx=86&ty=47