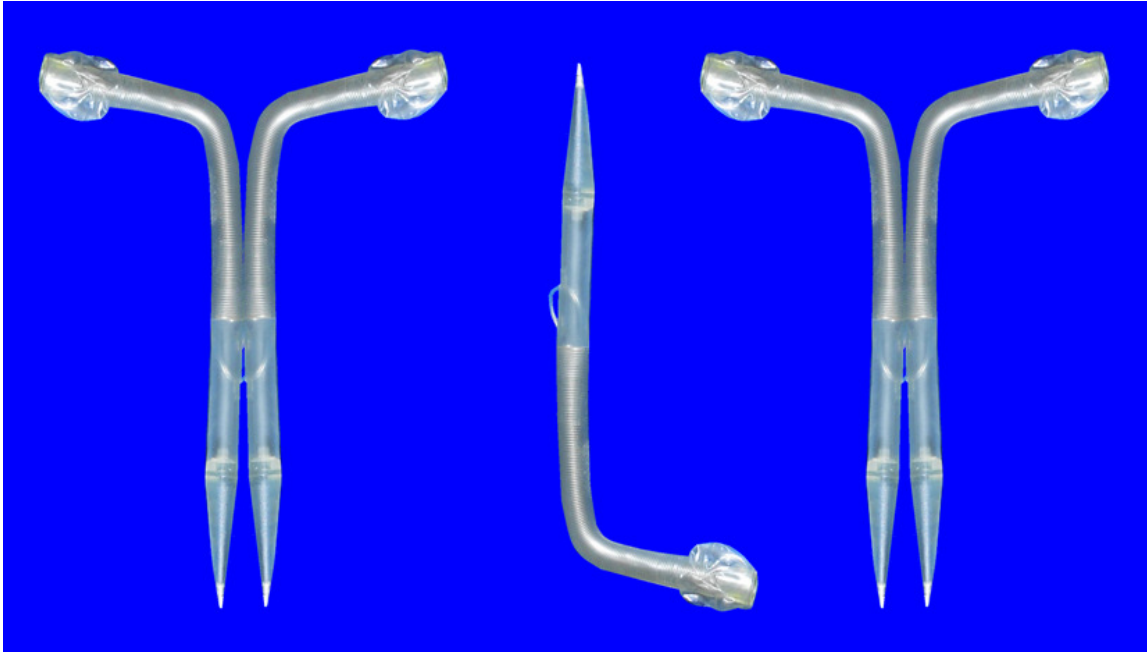


# Translaryngeal Tracheostomy - TLT Fantoni Method



**Fantoni A., Ripamonti D., Lesmo A.**

## **About the Authors**

Fantoni Antonio

Chief Emeritus of Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care - San Carlo Borromeo Hospital, Milan

Ripamonti Donata

Past Chief of Intensive Care Unit - San Carlo Borromeo Hospital, Milan

Lesmo Andrea

Responsible of a simple section of Intensive Care - San Carlo Borromeo Hospital, Milan

## **Addresses**

[www.translaryngealtracheostomyfantoni.it](http://www.translaryngealtracheostomyfantoni.it)

e-mail: [tracheostomytl@gmail.com](mailto:tracheostomytl@gmail.com)

# Index

<b>Preface</b>	1
<b>History of translaryngeal tracheostomy</b>	3
<b>The commercial kit of TLT</b>	8
<b>Methods to perform TLT and division into phases</b>	9
The basic TLT technique (BTLT)	10
The phase 1	10
The phase 2	13
The phase 3	14
Respiratory assistance of the BTLT	16
Variations of BTLT related to phase 1 and 3	16
The phase 1: with fibre flexible bronchoscope (TLT/FFB)	16
Rigid vs. flexible bronchoscope	19
Contraindications to TLT/FFB	21
The weird resistance to the use of rigid instruments	22
The phase 3: The variations	23
With internal control through a telescope inside the cannula	23
With the obturator and translaryngeal endoscopy	23
With the obturator without endoscopy	23
Without the obturator and with endoscopy	24
The phase 3: Basic technique vs. variations	24
Modes of respiratory assistance in BTLT variations	24
In phase 1	24
In phase 2 and 3	25
Use of small ventilation tube (SVT)	25
Partial use of SVT	25
Use of jet ventilation or tracheal open ventilation (TOV)	25
Use of laryngeal mask	25
<b>Advantages of the In/Out over Out/In dilation</b>	26
The elimination of the risk of lesion of the posterior tracheal wall and carina	26
The creation of two opposing pressures on peristomal tissue	27
unlimited tractions can be practiced on the guide wire	27
the local trauma is reduced to minimal levels	27
the maintenance of the integrity of the anterior wall of the trachea	28
a wiping effect on the cannula surface during its extraction	28
an effective barrier against the passage of pressurized gases	28
the pure divarication of the tracheal rings	29
the blood vessels are not torn or avulsed	30
no obstruction on the venous return of the neck vessels	30
The elimination of the traditional insertion of the cannula	31
no additional tissue trauma	31
suppression of free channel interval and related bleeding	32

<b>The wider range of indications provided by TLT dilation</b>	33
No limitation for the most severe cases of coagulopathies	33
Children and young patients	34
Pretracheal thickness, obesity	34
As temporary tracheostomy	36
Patients with previous neck surgery, radiotherapy or unclear surgical anatomy	36
Patients with tracheal stenosis	36
Patients with immune system insufficiency	36
<b>The evaluation of In/Out advantages in literature</b>	36
<b>Special technical aspects of TLT</b>	37
Retrograde needle insertion	37
The marks on the cannula	37
Patients with difficult airway access	37
Accidental decannulation	38
Intraprocedural decannulation	38
Post-procedural decannulation	40
The cuff inflation before the cannula rotation	40
The usefulness of the safety thread	40
Infection of the stoma	40
SVT- Guide wire entanglement	41
Right-angled or straight cannula?	41
<b>Topics of general interest</b>	42
Post-procedural tracheal stenosis of the central airways	42
Laryngotracheal	42
Suprastomal	42
At stoma level	42
Below the stoma	43
Timing	44
Training in one or many techniques?	45
Restricted team or generalized involvement of the staff?	46
Surgeon at hand?	46
The scheduled change of the cannula	46
Endoscopic control: mandatory or optional	48
Preliminary Ultrasound Scan	49
The duration of the procedure	49
Soft or rigid cannula?	49
<b>Our results compared to a Blue Rhino case series</b>	50
Number of tracheostomies per year	51
Selection	51
Timing	51
Duration of the procedure	52
Posterior tracheal wall injury	52
Bleeding	53
Tracheal ring fracture visible at bronchoscopy	53

Oxygen desaturation	53
Pneumothorax and or subcutaneous emphysema	53
Tracheal stenosis	53
Tracheo-innominate fistula (TIF)	54
Infection of the stoma	54
Difficulties in needle insertion	54
Para-tracheal insertion of the cannula	54
Difficult cannula insertion	54
Difficult cone-cannula extraction in TLT	54
Difficult RTS insertion	55
Intra-procedural decannulation	55
Cases converted to ST during tracheostomy	55
Cases abandoned, not tracheostomized	55
<b>Comparison of tracheostomies</b>	56
The present situation	56
The main incongruities	56
The absence of data describing the neck anatomy	56
The absence of any mention of the possible difficulties met in the airway approach	56
The absence of data on the respiratory function	56
The exclusion of the most challenging patients	56
Too coarse is the usual method to globally compare the various techniques	57
Non-objective and uniform evaluation of the complications	58
To take into account non-pertinent complications	58
The non-definition of the level of experience of the operator	60
Negligible report in the literature of the worst complications	60
The complexity of the procedure	62
Missing precise explanation of the adopted technical variations	64
The misleading influence of the RCT and meta-analysis	64
<b>The shortcut comparisons</b>	66
The index of the probability of posterior tracheal wall damage	66
The index of the severity of the trauma of the anterior tracheal wall	66
The index of the effectiveness of endoscopic control	66
The index of respiratory support adequacy	67
The index of the inherent danger of a technique	67
<b>Conclusions</b>	67
<b>References</b>	69

# Acronyms

PDT	Percutaneous Dilatational Tracheostomy
TLT	Translaryngeal Tracheostomy
BTLT	Basic Translaryngeal Tracheostomy
OIT	Outside/Inside Tracheostomy
In/Out	Direction of dilator and cannula insertion
Out/In	Direction of dilator and cannula insertion
ST	Surgical Tracheostomy
ETT	Endo Tracheal Tube
SVT	Small Ventilation Tube
RTS	Rigid TracheoScope
FFB	Fibre Flexible Bronchoscope
MV	Mechanical Ventilation
PEEP	Positive End Expiratory Pressure
PIP	Peak Inspiratory Pressure