**INDICATIONS**
- Management of an obstructed airway when standard airway procedures cannot be accomplished or have failed
- Unable to intubate by another route
- Cervical spine injuries
- Maxillofacial trauma
- Laryngeal trauma / edema

**SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS**
- Airway obstruction from:
  - Edema from infection, caustic ingestion, allergic reaction, and / or inhalation injuries
  - Foreign body
  - Mass lesion

**COMPLICATIONS**
- Post-procedure bleeding
- Cellulitis of neck
- Subcutaneous emphysema
- Voice change
- Feeling of lump in throat
- Persistent stoma
- Obstructive problems
- Misplacement of the airway

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**PROCEDURE**
1. If time permits, prep with appropriate antiseptic solution.
2. Have suction supplies available and ready.
3. Locate the cricothyroid membrane utilizing anatomical landmarks.
4. Secure larynx laterally between thumb and forefinger.
5. Relocate the cricothyroid membrane (in the midline between thyroid cartilage and cricoid cartilage).
6. Using the syringe and the finder needle supplied in the QuickTrach kit, insert the needle through the cricothyroid membrane at a 45 to 60-degree angle caudally (toward the feet).
7. Confirm entry of needle into trachea by aspirating air through the syringe.
8. If air is present, change the angle of insertion to 60 degrees.
9. Advance the device to the level of the stop guide.
10. Remove the stop guide and slide the plastic cannula along the needle into the trachea until the flange rests against the neck.
11. Carefully remove the needle and syringe.
12. Secure the cannula with the provided anchoring device.
13. Attach the connecting tube to the 15mm connection.
14. Attach a BVM to the connecting tube.
15. Confirm placement by auscultation and observing patient for adequate chest rise. Make certain ample time is used not only for inspiration but expiration as well.
16. If unable to obtain an adequate airway, resume basic airway management and transport the patient as soon as possible.

**KEY POINTS**

**Guidelines for Sizing**
- Adult (4.0 mm) QuickTrach: Any patient greater than 100 pounds (45kg) and greater than 8 years in age.
- Use a scalpel to make a **VERTICLE MIDLINE** incision over the cricothyroid membrane if the landmarks are difficult to identify. Once identified, use the QuickTrach as noted above.