

# 4<sup>th</sup> European Otolaryngology-ENT Surgery Conference

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Craniofacial Surgery

August 15-17, 2019 Rome, Italy

### Comparison of surgical tracheostomy and percutaneous dilatational tracheostomy in intensive care unit patients

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Percutaneous dilatational tracheostomy (PDT) has become an increasingly popular method of establishing an airway for patients in need of chronic ventilator assistance. The aim of this study is to assess and compare two main strategies for doing tracheostomy: traditional open surgical tracheostomy (ST) and PDT. We retrospectively reviewed medical records of 43 patients who underwent tracheostomy between the years 2016 and 2017. All patients were under intensive care unit (ICU) care and referred to the department of otolaryngology for tracheostomy. All tracheostomies were performed at the bedside using either percutaneous dilatational technique or open surgical technique by a single surgeon. In cases of PDT, either blind puncture technique without any guidance or laryngoscopy-guided puncture technique was used. Demographic and procedural variables and complications were compared between the two groups. PDT was performed in 29 patients and ST in 14 patients. Of those who underwent PDT, 15 patients received the blind puncture technique and 14 patients laryngoscopy-guided puncture technique. The cricosternal distance was longer and the amount of blood loss and duration of the procedure was lesser in the PDT group. In the PDT group, there was no difference in blood loss nor in the duration of the procedure according to the puncture technique, whereas critical complications occurred more frequently when the blind technique was used. Subjective difficulty of the procedure is predictive of complications. The study show that PDT is a useful and safe procedure for ICU patients. Also, guidance on using the flexible laryngoscopy during PDT can prevent severe complications.

### Biography

Dr. Inn-chul Nam has completed his MD from The Catholic University of Korea and acquired PhD from the same institute. He is the assistant professor of The Catholic University of Korea, College of Medicine. He has been serving as the head surgeon of the division of Head and Neck Surgery, Department of ORL-HNS of Incheon St. Mary's Hospital.

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