A Simple Alternative Method for Nasogastric Tube Suction Connections

To the Editor—Nasogastric tube management is widely used in anesthetic practice (e.g., for gastric decompression during laparoscopic procedures and for postoperative gastrointestinal secretion drainage). Most nasogastric tubes are supplied with a plastic (Simms-type) connector to facilitate connection with suction devices. Often, these plastic connectors become misplaced, requiring either replacement with a similar connector if available or removal of this connector from a new nasogastric tube package.

Most nasogastric tubes are provided with air entrapment pigtails (fig. 1; Argyle Sump Tube, Sherwood Medical, St. Louis, MO). A simple alternative method for nasogastric tube suction connection is to cut the distal end (5 cm) of the air entrapment pigtail for use as the connector. This small tubing segment can be used either to connect the nasogastric tube to suction tubing or to cap the nasogastric tube with the now shortened pigtail. In either case, it provides a seal as effective as the original plastic connector and can be capped when not in use. This method adds no expense and can be performed in seconds.

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