



Troubleshooting Common Prosthesis Issues:

Blom-Singer Voice Prostheses

*Many factors could be contributing to any of these issues. It is important to consider and evaluate all possible contributing factors in conjunction with prosthetic management of these issues. Supplemental clinical information available for the issues listed above. For product complaints, please contact customer service.

Troubleshooting Common Prosthesis Issues: Clinical Considerations

Central Leakage

Potential Cause	Clinical Problem-Solving	Prosthesis Options
Expected Device Life	Replace voice prosthesis Consider counseling patient on appropriate maintenance of the voice prosthesis	<i>Any Blom-Singer voice prosthesis</i>
Underfit voice prosthesis	Resize the TE tract & fit with appropriate length voice prosthesis	<i>Any Blom-Singer voice prosthesis</i>
Microorganism Growth	Consider review of microorganism growth indicators and potential reduction behaviors Consider consulting MD to evaluate and/or manage potential contributing factors	- <i>Dual Valve</i> ⁺ - <i>Advantage Soft Assembly</i> - <i>Advantage Hard Assembly</i> ⁺
Pressure	Consider fluoroscopic swallow evaluation Consider consulting MD to discuss appropriateness for further multidisciplinary evaluation	- <i>Increased Resistance</i> - <i>Advantage Hard Assembly</i> ⁺ - <i>Dual Valve</i> ⁺ - <i>Low Pressure Increased Resistance</i> - <i>Duckbill</i> [*]

Peripheral Leakage

Potential Cause	Clinical Problem-Solving	Prosthesis Options
Poorly fit prosthesis	Resize the TE tract & fit with appropriate length voice prosthesis	- <i>Classic Indwelling</i> - <i>Special Length</i>
Poor tissue integrity	Confirm adequate fit of voice prosthesis Consider consulting MD to evaluate and/or manage potential contributing factors	- <i>Large Flange</i> - <i>Large Esophageal Flange</i> - <i>Large Esophageal Flange w/ Special Length</i>
Expanding TE tract	Consider fluoroscopic swallow evaluation Consider consulting MD to evaluate and/or manage potential contributing factors	- <i>Dual Valve w/ Large Flange</i> ⁺ - <i>Large Esophageal Flange w/ Increased Resistance</i>
Pharyngoesophageal Etiology	Consider fluoroscopic swallow evaluation Consider consulting MD to evaluate and/or manage potential contributing factors	

Prosthesis Dislodgement

Potential Cause	Clinical Problem-Solving	Prosthesis Options
Patient Management	Counsel patient on appropriate stoma and prosthesis care	
Poorly fit prosthesis	Resize the TE tract and fit with appropriate length voice prosthesis	- <i>Large Flange</i> - <i>Large Esophageal Flange</i> - <i>Dual Valve w/ Large Flange</i> ⁺
Expanding TE Tract	Consider fluoroscopic swallow evaluation Consider consulting MD to evaluate and/or manage potential contributing factors	- <i>Large Esophageal Flange w/ Increase Resistance</i>
Pharyngoesophageal Etiology	Consider consulting MD to evaluate and/or manage potential contributing factors	

* 16 Fr only

⁺ 20 Fr only

To be used as a guide; always defer to your MD & medical team when troubleshooting through these issues. For more information, please see reference list on InHealth.com, or contact your clinical specialist.