Suction Catheter Sizing Guide

The most simple way to assess the correct size of suction catheter is to double the size of the ET tube.

Example: A child with a size 4 ET tube will require a size 8 Fr suction catheter.

Suctioning may cause hypoxia and bradycardia particularly in small infants and it is therefore important that the heart rate and oxygen saturations are monitored throughout.

It is also important that the ET tube does not block and the instillation of approximately 0.5mls 0.9% Saline prior to suctioning will help if required.

The amount and consistency of the secretions should determine the frequency of suctioning.