

Endotracheal tube sizes

- In general the widest tube that will easily pass through the cords should be used as this facilitates effective endotracheal suction and imposes a lower resistive work of breathing
- Tube resistance is proportional to length and inversely proportional to the radius to the power four (so halving the diameter of a tube increases its resistance 16 times)
- Size 2.0 mm endotracheal tubes **are not used** routinely but may be inserted if a 2.5mm tube will not pass into the trachea
- The table gives a rough guide for selecting tube diameter and length.

Gestation	50 th Centile weight by gestation (kg)	ETT Size (mm)	Length at lips (cm)	Blade size (miller)	VL size	F&P mask size
23-24	0.5	2.5	6	00/000		XS
26	0.75	2.5	6.5	0/00		XS
27	1	2.5	7	0/00		S
30	1.5	2.5	7.5	0/00	S0	S
33	2	2.5 / 3	8	0/00	S0	S
35	2.5	3	8.5	1/0	S1/S0	M
37	3	3 / 3.5	9	1/0	S1/S0	M
40	3.5	3.5	9.5	1/0	S1/S0	M/L
	4	4	10	1/0	S1/S0	M/L