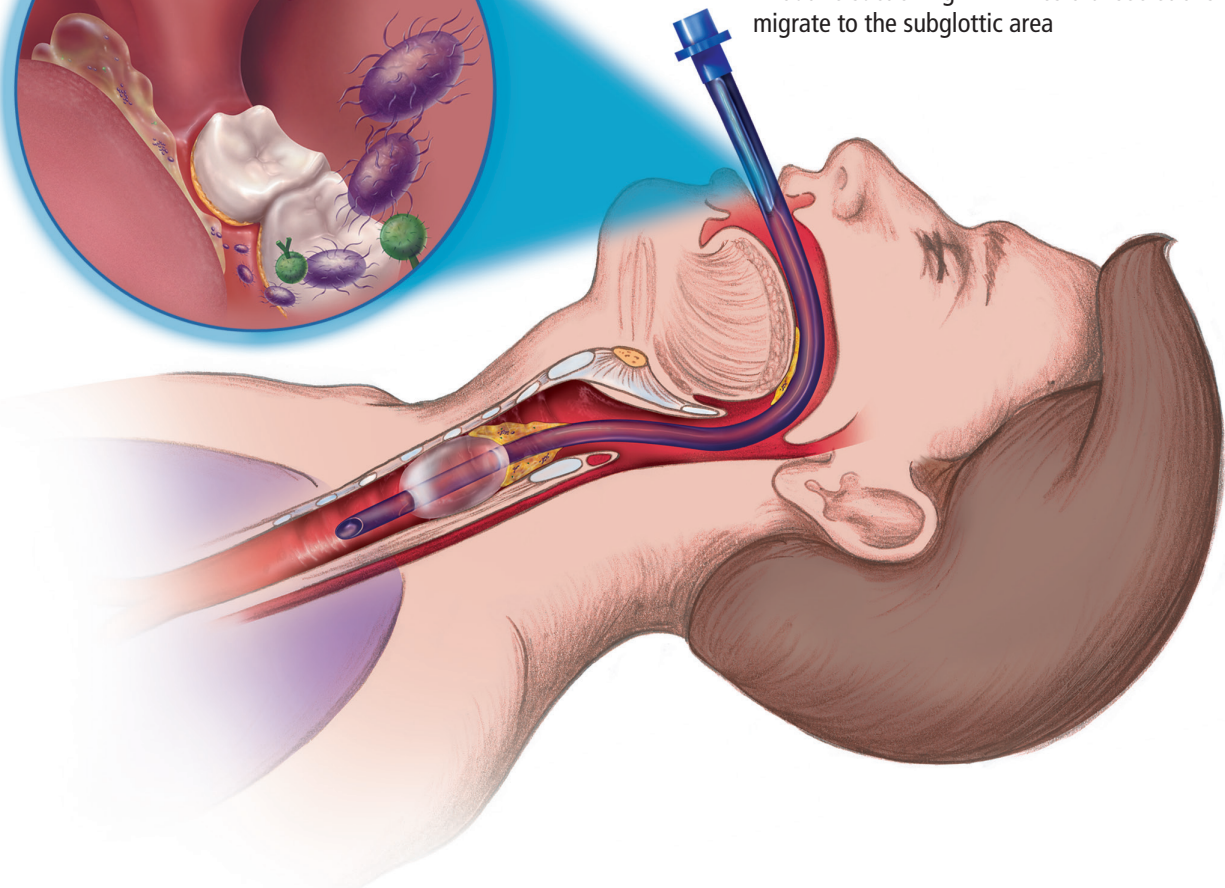
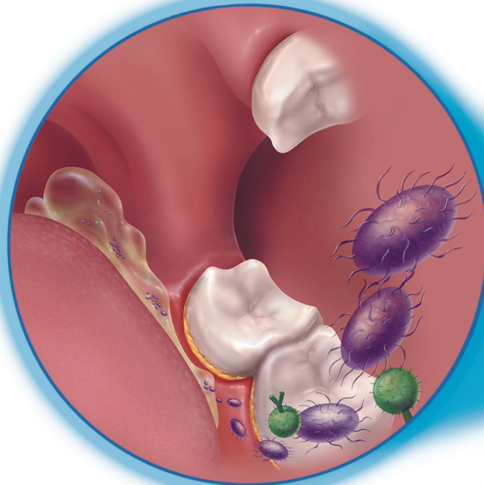


# Frequent Oral Care is Important

## Three of the Risk Factors for VAP:

1. Colonization of dental plaque with respiratory pathogens
2. Bacterial colonization of the oropharyngeal area
3. Aspirations of subglottic secretions\*

\*Routine suctioning minimizes oral secretions which can migrate to the subglottic area



REFERENCE: 1. B. Schleder, et al., "The Effect of a Comprehensive Oral Care Protocol on Patients at Risk for Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia," Journal of Advocate Health Care. 4(1):27-30, Spring/Summer 2002.