



Pediatric Surgical Associates, Ltd.

Patient and Family Education

MIC-KEY® and Tube Care After 8 Weeks

A MIC-KEY® tube has been inserted into your child's stomach to provide the nutrition he/she is unable to get by mouth.

Skin Care:

It is important to take care of the skin around your child's gastrostomy button. Skin care should be done at least 2 times each day. The area around the gastrostomy button needs to stay clean and dry at all times.

1. Wash the skin around the gastrostomy with soap and water.
2. Rotate the gastrostomy button to fully clean all the skin around it.
3. Rinse the area well with warm water.
4. Dry the area well, especially the skin around the gastrostomy button.

Feeding Tubes:

There are only 2 types of feeding tubes that can be used with your child's gastrostomy button. Do not put anything else into the gastrostomy button, including syringes.

1. Continuous feeding tube (90° angle tube): This tube is attached for long periods of time with formula going in slowly. This prevents diarrhea, cramping and bloating. You may also use this tubing for bolus feedings if you prefer.
2. Bolus feeding tube: This tube is used for intermittent (bolus) feedings. The tube is attached for the feedings or medication. It is then removed until needed again.

Care of the Feeding Tube During Feedings:

1. Attach the feeding tube to the button and "lock" in place.
2. Flush the tube with 3 to 5 mL of warm tap water before and after each feeding.



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Cleaning the Feeding Tube:

1. Rinse the feeding tube well with tap water. Do not use dish soap to clean.
2. Let the feeding tube air dry between feedings.
3. Feeding tubes should be thrown away when they begin to look “cloudy” or become cracked.

Button Maintenance:

To be sure the gastrostomy button stays in place, check the water in the balloon weekly or as instructed. It is time to change the button when you notice:

- Formula is coming from the feeding tube.
- The button is becoming too loose or too tight.

To Reorder Supplies:

When reordering supplies, be sure to know the size of your child’s MIC-KEY® button. This can be found on the gastrostomy button and at the top of this card.

You can reorder supplies from your child’s home medical supply company.

Call your child’s doctor or nurse if you notice any of the following:

- Your child’s stomach remains bloated for more than one hour.
- Any redness, swelling, drainage, or skin breakdown around the button.
- Your child has pain, diarrhea, vomiting, or unexplained fever.
- You notice thick, pink, raised skin around the button.
- Your child’s button comes out and you have difficulty replacing it.
- You need help replacing the button.
- You have questions or concerns about your child’s gastrostomy.