



Gastrostomy Tube Care for the First 8 Weeks

A _____ gastrostomy tube has been inserted into your child's stomach.

The tube needs to be turned completely in the tract 4 times each day. This is similar to turning an earring.

The tube is held in place by a balloon full of water. DO NOT check the water in this balloon for the first 8 weeks after the tube is placed.

He/she will need to be seen in the Surgery Clinic again in 8 weeks to have the tube changed by the surgery team. **Please bring an extra tube to clinic with you.**

Skin Care

To keep the skin clean:

1. Wash the skin around the tube with soap and water.
2. Rinse the area well with warm water.
3. Dry the area well, especially the skin around the tube.

It is important to take care of the skin around your child's tube. Skin care needs to be done at least twice each day. The area around the tube needs to stay clean all the time. Keep the area as dry as possible. Some drainage may occur at the site. If you are concerned about the drainage, call your child's health care provider. Your child may take a bath in the bath tub two days after surgery. Talk to your child's doctor about swimming.

Care of the Feeding Tube when Giving Feedings or Medications:

1. Flush the tube with 3-5 mL of warm tap water before and after each feeding or medication.
2. Be sure the tube is flushed with warm tap water and is clear of formula before giving any medication through the tube.
3. Only formula, breast milk, and/or medication should be given through the tube (no pureed foods or baby foods).

Supplies:

The supplies needed for feedings should be obtained from your child's home medical supply company. You will need to contact your medical supply company to send you an extra tube kit to your home.

Call your child's doctor or health care provider at 612-813-8000 if:

1. There is any redness, swelling, excessive drainage or skin breakdown around your child's tube or site.
2. You are unable to give feedings or medications through your child's tube/button.
3. You notice thick, pink, raised skin around the site. This is called granulation tissue.
4. Your child has pain, diarrhea, vomiting, or unexplained fever.
5. You have any questions or concerns about your child's tube.

VERY IMPORTANT

If your child's tube comes out, take your child to the nearest Emergency Room!

1. Place a new tube (given to you at discharge) into the opening on the belly. **DO NOT USE FORCE WHEN REPLACING THE TUBE.**
2. **DO NOT** inflate the balloon (if present).
3. Tape the tube securely to the skin before leaving for the emergency room.
4. **DO NOT** use the new tube for feedings/medications until your child has been evaluated in the emergency room.