**Frequently Asked Questions About Tube Feeding**

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### Name That Tube

**PEG** (percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy)
- This is the primary tube used for gastrostomies inserted via the endoscopic route
- The tube stays in place for at least 3 months, to establish the tract - this does not mean that the tube must be changed after 3 months
- The tube is removed under an anesthetic and replaced with one of the other feeding devices

**MIC G** (skin level device)
- This is a skin level device with a balloon
- This tube can be inserted laparoscopically or inserted into an established tract / stoma
- The tube lasts for about 4-6 months
- All the feeding adapters are universal and are changed on a monthly basis
- Families can change these tubes at home

**MIC KEY** (skin level device)
- This is a skin level device with a balloon
- The tube is removed under an anesthetic and replaced with one of the other feeding devices

**Bard Button**
- This is a skin level device
- Most often it is inserted into an established stoma
- Insertion of this device may require anesthetic
- The tube lasts for approximately 12 months
- Always make sure that the feeding and bolus adapters are the same size as the tube
to decompress or drain the stomach you must use the decompression tube

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### Blocked Tube

**Prevention** is the key - flush, flush, flush
- If the tube is blocked - try mixing the powder of a carotene capsule ordered by your physician with 325mg of sodium bicarbonate (1/2 tsp. of baking soda) & warm water - instill this solution into the tube - use a "push / pull" method to unblock tube
- Repeat this procedure 2X - you can leave the instillation for 1 hour
- If unable to unblock the tube - a new tube may be in order

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### What is Granulation Tissue?

Sometimes granulation tissue is called proud flesh
- It is the body's reaction to the tube, the body is "welling off" the tube
- This tissue produces a yellow, sticky drainage & is often itchy
- The tissue can be treated with silver nitrate or short term hydrocortisone cream

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### Irritation Around the Stoma

- The skin around the tube is often red or irritated due to leakage of gastric contents and/or movement of the tube
- Creams & lotions are not necessary unless there is a problem
- Sulferato & desitin are often prescribed for "burned" skin
- Cicatrin powder for wet and mucky skin
- Hydrocortisone creams - sparingly only - may be used to help treat granulation tissue

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### What to do if the tube falls out

- If the stoma is newly formed (especially via the PEG route) a doctor should be called
- If the stoma is mature (more than 6 weeks old) a Foley, MIC G or MIC KEY can be inserted into the stoma - lubricate the new device with water soluble lubricant and insert about 5 cm into the stoma - inflate balloon (to 5ml) and secure with tape
- If gastrostomy was performed via the open surgical route or laparoscopically, there is less risk of improper placement of the replacement tube
- Encourage families to carry an emergency kit and appropriate feeding adapters for their tube
- If you are at all unsure of placement - do not feed

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### Who to call for tube problems?

- If it is a new tube and there are surgical concerns the surgeon should be called
- If there is a question about tube placement - a surgeon should be called
- Most children who are fed enterally have a pediatrician or an attending who plan care for the child - feeding and medical concerns should be addressed to this group
- The surgical nurse clinician, the clinicians at Sunny Hill or the gastroenterology nurses are most often involved with these children - they are available resources during weekday hours
- For dislodged gj tubes a physician must fill out a requisition for radiological replacement - this procedure is done Mon-Fri from 0800-1600
- A child with a feeding tube may require a variety of services - surgery, pediatrics, gastroenterology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, nutrition services, child life and social work may need to be involved for equipment funding issues

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### Available Resources

- Home Tube Feeding Manual
- BC Children's web site
- Video on enteral feeding
- Home enteral feeding supply duotang
- Surgical nurse clinician (7720)
- Sunny Hill clinicians (8280)
- GI nurses (2772)
- Attending physician

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### Top Ten List of ?’s

- What kinds of tubes are there?
- How are they inserted?
- How do you prevent tube blockages?
- How do you unblock a tube?
- How common is skin irritation?
- What is granulation tissue?
- What is the difference between a “G tube” & “J tube”?
- Where can I go for help?
- Who do you call for problems?
- What do you do if the tube falls out?
- What is granulation tissue?
- How do you prevent tube blockages?
- How are they inserted?
- What kinds of tubes are there?