

Caring for your Child's MIC-KEY or MiniONE Button Gastrostomy Tube (G-tube)

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Caring for your Child's Mic-Key Gastrostomy Tube (G-tube)

Skin Care

Clean your child's G-tube site two times every day, or more if needed.

- 1. Put water and a little soap into a basin
- 2. Dip a clean cotton gauze in the basin. Use the gauze to wipe away from the G-tube until the area looks clean
- 3. Wash the area around the G-tube with a wet washcloth. Dry it with a dry washcloth



Using the Extension Tube

Attach the extension tube before giving feeds, medicine, or venting. Remove it when not in use.

- To attach, line up the black lines on the extension tube and the G-tube. Push the extension tube into the G-tube. Twist the extension tube to the right until it stops
- To remove, twist the tubing to the left until the lines match up, then pull the tubing out, holding the G-tube button in place

The extension tube has a clamp that stops the liquid from flowing through.

- Always close the clamp before you open the ends or sides to give food or medicine
- Always open the clamp when you need to give food or medicine or let air out

Preparing the Extension Tube

Before you attach the extension tube to your child's G-tube for giving medicine or feeding, you need to fill the tubing with liquid. This is called "Priming."

- 1. Fill a syringe with 5ml of water or formula and put it in the side opening of the extension tube
- 2. Open the extension tube clamp and push all the water or formula from the syringe into the extension tube. Some liquid will drip out from the end
- 3. While the syringe is still attached, close the extension tube clamp
- 4. Take off the syringe and close the side opening

Giving Liquid Medicine

Here's what to do:

- 1. Get the extension tube ready by filling it with water or formula, just like it's explained in the "Preparing the Extension Tube" section, then attach it to the G-tube
- 2. Put the medicine syringe into the side opening of the tube. Open the extension tube clamp and push the medicine into the tube. Then close the extension tube clamp
- 3. Take off the medicine syringe and attach a syringe filled with 5ml of water
- 4. Open the extension tube clamp and push the water into the tubing to clean out any remaining medicine. This is called "flushing" the tube. Then close the clamp and take off the extension tube

Venting

Vent your child's G-tube when your doctor says or when needed.

- 1. Connect the clamped extension tube to the G-tube
- 2. Put a feeding syringe (60ml) without the plunger into the feeding port. Keep the feeding syringe pointing straight up
- 3. Open the extension tube clamp. You'll see liquid and bubbles go into the syringe. Gently move the tubing and syringe up and down to let air bubbles out. Moving your child may help as well
- 4. When the air bubbles stop and the liquid goes back to the stomach, close the extension tube and take off the syringe
- 5. Attach a syringe filled with 5ml of water to the extension tube medicine port. Push the water into the tubing to clean out any remaining stomach liquid

Gravity Feed

Feeding without a pump, called a gravity feed, is a way to give a feed over a short time.

- 1. Put all the formula you want to give in a bottle or container
- 2. Get the extension tube ready by filling it with water or formula, just like it's explained in the "Preparing the Extension Tube" section, then connect it to the G-tube
- 3. Attach a big syringe (60ml) to the tubing
- 4. Fill 3/4 of the syringe with formula. Keep it straight up
- 5. Open the extension tube clamp and let the feed flow slowly. Keep adding formula to the syringe until it's all given
- 6. When you have given all the formula, close the extension tube clamp and take off the feeding syringe
- 7. Attach a syringe filled with 5ml of water to the extension tube medicine port. Push the water into the tubing to clean out any remaining formula



Feeding with a Pump

A feeding pump gives feeds at a steady rate over time. It can be used for quick feeds (given every few hours) or slow feeds (given over most of the day).

- 1. Put the measured formula and a bit extra (30mL) into the feeding bag and connect the filled bag to the pump
- 2. Attach the extension tube to the end of the feeding bag tubing
- 3. Turn on the pump. Follow the directions provided by your home supply company to make sure that the correct speed ("rate") and amount ("volume") are set
- 4. Prime the pump using the directions provided by your home supply company. The pump will fill the tubing with feed until it starts dripping out of the end
- 5. Connect the feeding bag and extension tube to the G-tube and start the feed
- 6. When the feed is finished, clamp the extension tube and remove the feeding bag tubing. Attach a syringe filled with 5ml of water to the extension tube medicine port. Unclamp the extension tube and push the water into the tubing to clean out any remaining feed
- 7. Clamp the extension tube and take off the water syringe

Cleaning Feeding Supplies

You'll need to wash your extension tube, syringes, and feeding bags before you use them again.

- Wash syringes in the sink using liquid dish soap. Take out the plungers first. Rinse them well and let them dry in the air
- Clean the extension tube in the sink with liquid dish soap. You
 can use a clean or dedicated toothbrush or a small brush to
 scrub off any leftover formula or medicine. Rinse it well and let
 it dry in the air
- Rinse the feeding bags with water. Do not use soap inside the feeding bag. You will get about 30 feeding bags per month, which means you can use about one a day
- To clean the feeding bag tubing, refill the feeding bag with clean water and attach it to your pump. Prime the pump with water like you do before starting a feed, following the instructions from your home supply company. This will wash away any remaining formula from the tubing



Call your doctor or go to the Emergency Room if:

- The skin around the G-tube looks raw or red, or if the drainage is bloody, thick, or smells bad
- The skin near the G-tube seems too tight
- More liquid than normal is leaking from the stomach
- · Your child has unusual diarrhea or vomiting
- The temperature is higher than 100.4 F (38.0 C) without a reason, like a cold
- Your child feels pain during feedings or when moving the tube
- If your child's G-tube falls out and you are not able to replace it

Frequently Asked Questions

Is any special care needed after G-tube placement?

Take off the extra tubing when you're not using it to avoid pulling on the healing spot where the G-tube is. Follow any other special instructions your doctor gives you.

Are there any activities my child should avoid because of the G-tube?

Your child can do all the things kids their age do, like take baths, play on their tummies, and swim.

What if my child's G-tube falls out?

If your child's G-tube falls out for the first time since their surgery, cover the spot with gauze and go to the nearest emergency room within one hour to get it put back in.

If your child has a button G-tube that has been changed before and you feel comfortable changing it at home, you insert a new G-tube button following the directions. If you cannot do it, go to the emergency room.

What if my child has a rash around the G-tube?

If you see a little bit of redness or if there's some liquid coming out around the tube, you should gently place a clean piece of gauze under it. You can change this gauze whenever it gets wet to keep the area around the tube dry.

If the redness gets worse or if the skin feels warm or hurts, it's important to tell your doctor.

What should I do if my child throws up during a feed?

First, stop the feeding by closing the clamp on the tube and turning off the pump. Then, sit your child up until they stop throwing up. Once they start feeling better, you can start feeding again.

If your child keeps throwing up, call your doctor for help.



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