



Caring For Your Child's Gastrostomy Tube (G-Tube or PEG-Tube)

My child's G-tube:

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WITH WORLD-CLASS DOCTORS FROM



COLUMBIA



Weill Cornell
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Caring For Your Child's Gastrostomy Tube (G-Tube or PEG-Tube)

Skin Care

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

Here's what to do:

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

Using the Extension Tube

Only attach the extension tube before giving feeds, medicine, or venting and take it off when not in use.

Here's what to do:

- To attach, hold down the PEG button. Press the extension tube into the button until it will not go further
- To remove: Hold the G-tube button firmly. Pull the extension tube straight up and away from the G-tube

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. This is called "flushing" the tube

Preparing the Extension Tube

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

Here's what to do:

1. Fill a syringe with 10 mL of water or formula and put it in the side opening of the extension tube.
2. 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 as 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 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 10 mL of water.
4. 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, like if your child's belly looks big, before or after a feed, or they're not handling feeds well.

Here's what to do:

1. Connect the clamped extension tube to the G-tube.
2. Put a feeding syringe (60 mL) 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.
4. When the air bubbles stop, close the extension tube and take off the syringe.
5. Attach a syringe filled with 10 mL of water to the extension tube. 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.

Here's what to do:

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 (60 mL) to the tubing.
4. Pour a little formula into the syringe. Keep it straight up.
5. Open the extension tube clamp and let the feed flow slowly. Keep adding a bit of 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 10 mL of water to the extension tube. 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).

Here's what to do:

1. Put the measured formula and a bit extra (30 mL) 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 take off the feeding bag tubing. Attach a syringe filled with 10 mL of water to the extension tube. Push the water into the tubing to clean out any remaining feed. Clamp the extension tube and take off the syringe.

Cleaning Feeding Supplies

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

Here's what to do:

- 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 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

- 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

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