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# Caring For Your Child's Standard Gastrostomy Tube (G-Tube)

My child's G-tube:

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WITH WORLD-CLASS DOCTORS FROM



COLUMBIA



Weill Cornell  
Medicine

NewYork-  
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# Caring For Your Child's Standard Gastrostomy Tube (G-Tube)

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## Skin Care

After your child's G-tube is healed and your doctor tells you it is okay, clean the 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 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.

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## Giving Liquid Medicine

Here's what to do:

1. Put the medicine syringe into the side opening of the G-tube and push the medicine into the tube.
2. Take off the medicine syringe and attach a syringe filled with 5 mL of water.
3. Push the water into the tubing to clean out any remaining medicine. This is called "flushing" the tube.

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## 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. Put a feeding syringe (60 mL) without the plunger into the feeding port. Keep the feeding syringe pointing straight up.
2. You'll see liquid and bubbles go into the syringe. Gently move the tubing and syringe up and down to let air bubbles out.
3. When the air bubbles stop, take off the syringe.
4. Attach a syringe filled with 5 mL of water to the extension tube. Push the water into the tubing to clean out any remaining stomach liquid.

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## 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. Attach a 60 mL syringe to the G-tube.
3. Pour a little formula into the syringe. Keep it straight up.
4. Let the formula flow slowly. Keep adding a bit of formula to the syringe until it's all given.
5. When you have given all the formula, take off the feeding syringe.
6. Attach a syringe filled with 5 mL of water to the extension tube. Push the water into the tubing to clean out any remaining formula.

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## Feeding with a Pump

A feeding pump gives formula 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. 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.
3. Prime the pump using the directions provided by your home supply company. The pump will fill the tubing with formula until it starts dripping out of the end.
4. Connect the feeding bag to the G-tube and start the feed.
5. When the feed is finished, remove the feeding bag tubing. Attach a syringe filled with 5 mL of water. Push the water into the tubing to clean out any remaining formula.

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## Cleaning Feeding Supplies

You'll need to wash and use your syringes and feeding bags again. You will get about 30 feeding bags per month.

Here's what to do:

1. Wash syringes in the sink using liquid dish soap. Take out the plungers first. Rinse them well and let them dry in the air.
2. 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.
3. To clean the feeding bag tubing, refill the feeding bag with clean water and attach it to your pump. Prime the pump with water as you do before starting a feed, following the instructions from your home supply company. This will wash away any remaining formula from the tubing.

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- 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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This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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