

Feeding Tubes - NG and NJ Tubes

Definition

- A nasogastric (NG) or nasojejunal (NJ) feeding tube gives your child liquid food, fluids or medicines.

Health Information

Types

- Nasogastric (NG) tubes go in through the nose and end in the stomach.
- Nasojejunal (NJ) tubes go in the same way, but end in the intestine.
- Nasal feeding tubes are used for a short time, usually about a month.

Reasons for Using Feeding Tubes

- Some children have medical conditions that make it hard to eat or drink by mouth.
- **Nutrition.** Feeding tubes help your child gain weight and grow. You can give formula and other liquid food through the tube.
- **Hydration.** You can give your child water through the tube.
- **Medicine.** You can give your child medicines through the tube.

Care Advice

1. Key Points

- NG and NJ feeding tubes go through the nose into the gut.
- They are used to give liquid food, fluids and medicines.
- Here's some information to help you care for your child's feeding tube.

2. Flush the Tube

- Flush the feeding tube with water after each use.
- Reason: this will prevent the tube from getting clogged.

3. Clean Around the Nasal Opening

- Keep the skin around the nasal opening clean and dry.
- Use a moist cotton swab or gauze to remove any dried nasal discharge
- Replace the tape/dressing if it becomes loose or dirty. Try to keep it dry.

4. If Tube is Blocked

- Feeding tubes can get blocked, most often with thick foods or medicines.
- Follow any advice your doctor gave you to unblock the feeding tube.
- If you still can't unblock the tube, call your doctor, or home health care nurse. If you can't reach them, go to the emergency room.
- Bring any spare tubes you may have. These can be used if the tube needs to be replaced.

5. If NG or NJ Tube Comes Out

- If the NG or NJ tube comes out, call your doctor or home health care nurse.
- If you can't reach them, go to the emergency room.
- Bring in your old tube. This helps the staff know the right size tube.

6. **What to Expect**

- NG and NJ tubes are most often used for about 2 to 4 weeks. Then they need to be replaced. The new tube is most often placed in the other side.
- With regular care, they work well to give your child nutrition and medicines.

Call Your Doctor If

- The feeding tube comes out
- The feeding tube is cracked or broken
- You cannot unblock the feeding tube
- Your child has pain when the feeding tube is used
- You think your child needs to be seen
- You have other questions or concerns

Pediatric Care Advice

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