

Gastrostomy

Pre-operation information

What is a gastrostomy?

A gastrostomy is a hole or opening from the stomach to the outside of the abdomen. A gastrostomy tube is the name of the tube inserted into the opening to allow for feeding or for giving medications.

PEG (percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy)

With endoscopic guidance the feeding tube is passed down the oesophagus into the stomach and pulled out through a small cut in the abdominal wall. The gastrostomy tube is held in place by a mushroom shaped retention flange on the inside of the stomach and a skin flange outside the abdominal wall.

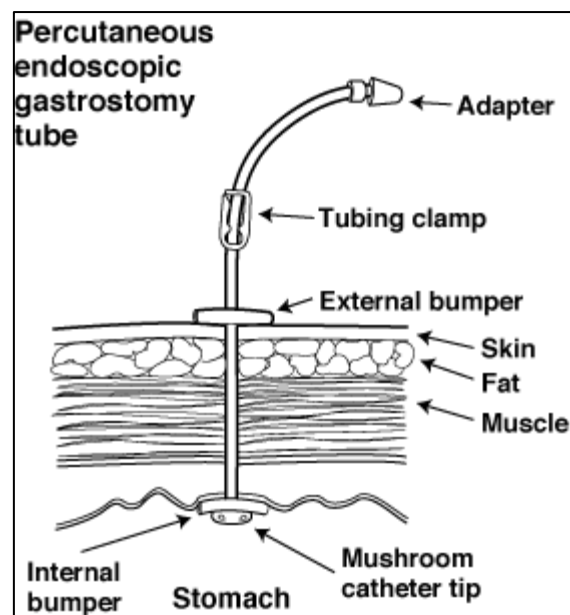


Image: Diagram showing position of the gastrostomy tube

Disadvantages

Gastrostomies, like all introduced devices, have their share of disadvantages. Fortunately most complications can be dealt with quickly reducing disruption to you and your family.

Disadvantages include:

- Leakage of gastric fluids from around the stoma leading to skin excoriation
- Overgranulation tissue
- Postoperative infection (very small percentage).

Advantages of having a gastrostomy

Tube feeds ensure adequate fluids, nutrients, and medications are being administered to your child.

Additional advantages include:

- Additional food and calories are able to be given
- No more tapes over little faces to keep NGTs in place
- Less time spent administering feeds and medications
- Feeds can be administered at night whilst child is asleep
- Less chance of tube dislodgement
- Tube is easily replaced.

What happens after surgery?

After insertion of the gastrostomy tube your child will be required to stay in hospital for 2-3 days. During this time you will be seen by the Gastroenterology Clinical Nurse who will educate you and your family on the care and maintenance of the new tube at home. You will also be seen by a dietitian and a feeding regime specifically for your child will be commenced.



Low profile devices

This is a feeding tube that sits flush against the skin and is often referred to as a “button”. An extension tube is fitted to the feeding port when feeds are required and removed when feeds are finished.

Gastrostomy tubes are replaced with button devices 10-12 weeks after the initial procedure. This requires your child being admitted to the Same Day Procedure Unit and undergoing another general anaesthetic.

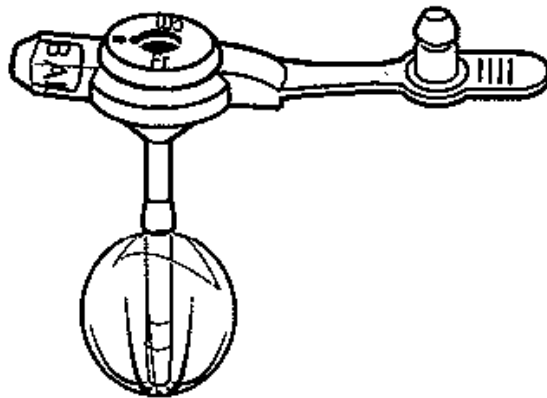


Image: Diagram of a MIC-KEY common low profile button

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

Child and Adolescent Health Service
15 Hospital Avenue, Nedlands, WA, 6009
Telephone: (08) 6456 2222
Produced by PCH Gastroenterology
Ref: 1065 © CAHS, September 2018



Government of **Western Australia**
Child and Adolescent Health Service

Disclaimer: This publication is for general education and information purposes. Contact a qualified healthcare professional for any medical advice needed.
© State of Western Australia, Child and Adolescent Health Service