



Enteral Medicine Administration- NG Tube

- Ask your pharmacy to provide all medicines in liquid form if possible.
- If liquid form is not available, you will need to crush tablets or open capsules and dissolve in water.
 - Some medicine may need to be dissolved in a liquid other than water. Your pharmacist will tell you what liquid to use.

How to crush medicines:

1. Always ask your pharmacy before crushing tablets. Some medicines cannot be crushed.
2. Use a pill crusher to crush the pill into a powder. You want to crush out all the clumps since they can clog the tube.
3. Combine the powder with a few mls of water and mix until it is dissolved. Draw up the mixture into a syringe.
 - If the consistency is too thick, add a few more mls of water.

How to open a capsule medicine:

1. Always ask your pharmacy before opening a capsule medicine. Some capsules should not be opened.
2. Hold the capsule over a small cup and twist open.
3. Pour the medicine out of the capsule into the cup and throw away the outer shell.
4. Combine the powder with a few mls of water and mix until it is dissolved. Draw up the mixture into a syringe.
 - a. If the consistency is too thick, add a few more mls of water.

How to administer medicines through your child's NG tube:

1. Check the placement on the NG tube to make sure it is in the stomach.
 - a. Take an empty syringe and pull back the plunger to 5mL.
 - b. Find the end of your child's NG tube and pinch or bend the tube to prevent the tube from leaking when you open the port at the end.
 - c. Open the port and attach the air-filled syringe to the NG tube.
 - d. Gently push the air into the NG tube. This will clear the tube of any formula or water which would alter the pH.
 - e. Pull back on the plunger to get a small amount of liquid from your child's stomach.
 - f. Put the liquid from the syringe on a piece of pH paper.
 - g. Compare the color of the wet pH paper to the package which tells you the pH of the liquid on the paper.
 - i. The pH of the liquid should be 1.5-5.5.
 - ii. If the pH is 6 or higher, wait 30 minutes and repeat the pH test.

NOTES:

**A tube feed will need to be turned off for 15-30 minutes before checking placement to get an accurate pH.

**If you give your child any medicine that decreases acid in the stomach, check pH before giving the medicine. You will then need to wait at least 4 hours before checking gastric pH again.

**See "Nasogastric Tube/NG Tube" document for troubleshooting tips.



2. Find the end of your child's NG tube and pinch the tube to prevent the tube from leaking when you open the port at the end.
3. Attach the medicine syringe to the port of the tube and slowly push all the medicine into the tube.
4. Pinch the tube to prevent leaking.
5. Repeat as necessary until all medicine have been given.
6. Attach a syringe filled with 5-10mls of water to the port.
7. Flush the tube with the water.
8. Pinch the tube, remove the syringe, and close the port.



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