



RankenJordan
PEDIATRIC BRIDGE HOSPITAL

Gastrostomy tube/G-tube

What is a gastrostomy tube/G-tube?

- A G-tube is a feeding tube that is placed by a surgeon. It goes through your child's skin on their abdomen and goes through to the stomach.
- This tube allows your child to get liquid food and medicine directly into the stomach where it is absorbed and used by the body.

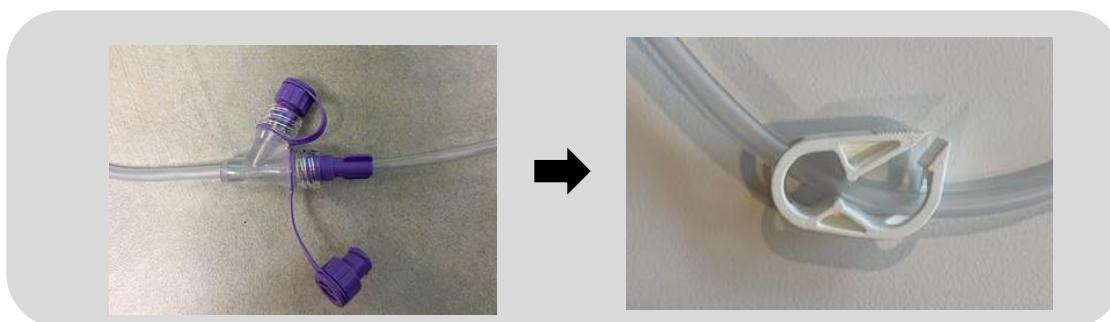
Why does my child have a gastrostomy/G-tube?

- Your child needs formula through a feeding tube to get enough nutrition to grow and be healthy since he/she is not able to eat enough by mouth.
- Your child may also need medicine through the G-tube.
- A G-tube does not need to be permanent. If your child starts to eat or is eating enough by mouth, your child's doctor may decide the G-tube can come out.

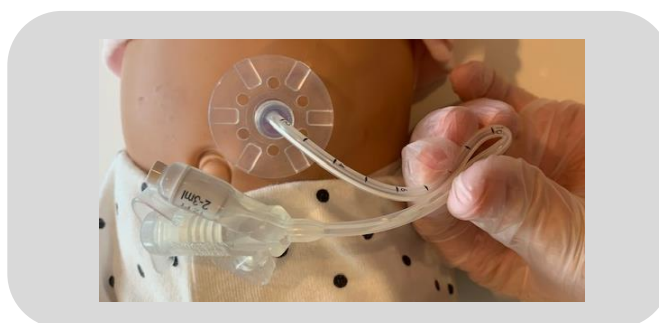
How do I feed my child formula over a feeding pump?

1. Wash hands
2. Gather supplies
 - a. Formula –
 - i. Type _____
 - ii. Amount _____ mL
 - iii. To run over _____ hours
 - b. Measuring cup
 - c. Feeding bag
 - d. Feeding pump
 - e. Syringe
 - f. Water for flush - _____ mL

3. Open feeding bag and pour formula into bag (the ordered amount of formula plus an additional 20-30 mL of formula to prime the feeding bag's tube).
4. Prime the formula through the tubing by gently pinching the valve in the feeding tubing. If formula is thick or does not flow, you can prime the tubing on the feeding pump.
 - a. To prime on the feeding pump – insert the feeding tube cartridge into the feeding pump. Press and hold the “Prime” button until the formula reaches the tip of the tube.
5. Connect the tip of the feeding bag tubing to the port of the G-tube.
6. Unclamp the gastrostomy tube (if there is a clamp).



**if there is not a clamp, pinch tubing with your hands to prevent formula and stomach contents from leaking out.



7. Set the pump rate and volume to deliver the correct amount of formula over the ordered time.
 - a. If your child's feed is continuous, it is recommended that you set the pump to run for 4 hours at a time. Every 4 hours you will rinse the feeding bag and refill with formula, prime fresh formula through the tubing, and restart the tube feed as described above.
8. Press “start” on the pump.

When the feeding is over:

1. Check the pump volume to ensure the child received the correct amount of formula.
2. Turn the pump “off”.
3. Disconnect the feeding bag tube from the G-tube.
4. Draw up water flush into a syringe.
5. Open the port and insert the syringe tip.
6. Unclamp the G-tube.
7. Slowly push the flush into the G-tube.
8. Clamp the G-tube.
9. Remove the flush syringe.
10. Replace the cap on the port.



** If your child gets a large water flush you may need to:

- a. Use a large, catheter tip syringe and flush into the port of the G-tube.
- b. Put the water in the feeding bag and run the flush over the pump.



Skin care for your child’s G- tube:

- Clean the skin around the G- tube daily with soap and warm water.
- Check the site daily for:
 - Drainage
 - redness larger than a quarter
 - rashes,
 - swelling
- Your child’s doctor may tell you to put a dressing around your child’s G-tube.

Your child’s G-button tube: _____

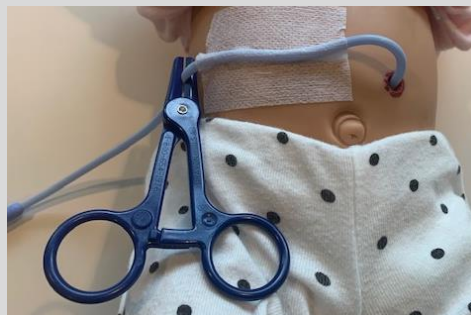
Venting your child's G-tube:

- Some children with G-tubes can burp or pass gas to get rid of air in their stomach.
- Some children have a hard time getting rid of this gas build-up. In this case, you can “vent” their G-tube to release the air from their stomach.
- **Using a syringe to relieve gas in the stomach:**
 1. Attach a large syringe (without a plunger) to the G-tube.
 2. Unclamp the G-tube.
 3. Gas will bubble up into the syringe. It is normal for formula and stomach contents to come up into the syringe too.
 4. Once the gas is relieved, allow any liquid in the syringe to slowly flow back into the stomach.
 5. Add 5-10 mL of water to the syringe to flush the G-tube.
 6. Clamp the G-tube.
 7. Remove the syringe.
 8. Replace the cap on the G-tube



What to do if the G-tube comes out:

- Instructions may vary depending on how long your child has had a G-tube. **Please refer to the doctor's orders for specific instructions about your child.**
- The G-tube may need to be replaced at the hospital.
- Replace with a foley catheter.
 1. Gather supplies.
 - a. Foley catheter - _____ French
 - b. Water soluble lubricant.
 - c. Blue clamp
 - d. Tape
 2. Lubricate the foley catheter.
 3. Insert the foley catheter a couple of inches into the G-tube stoma.
 4. Do not inflate the balloon.
 5. Tape the foley catheter to your child's abdomen to keep it in place. Only if not inflating balloon
 6. Clamp the foley with a blue clamp to keep it from leaking stomach contents.
 7. Notify your child's doctor right away for additional instructions.
 8. Do not flush or feed your child through the foley catheter at this time.



When the call the doctor:

- If the tube comes out.
- Bleeding around the stoma.
- If the tube becomes clogged.
- Drainage, redness larger than a quarter, rashes, or swelling.

This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by Ranken Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital. This content does not replace medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Talk to your child's health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your child's condition, or your child's treatment plan. If your child is not a Ranken Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital patient, this document does not create a doctor-patient relationship between your child and Ranken Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital.