Gastrostomy Tube Removal

Your child’s doctor has decided that your child no longer needs his gastrostomy tube for feedings. Gastrostomy tubes are usually removed when a child is eating well by mouth and is growing well for several months.

A nutrition evaluation is recommended before considering taking out your child’s gastrostomy tube.

Tube Removal:

The gastrostomy tube will be removed by your child’s doctor or nurse practitioner in the ______________________. This is an outpatient procedure. Your child will not need sedation or pain medication before or after the tube is removed. Your child may feel movement or pressure when the tube is removed.

After the tube is removed, it is common for some stomach contents to drain from the site. This drainage can be managed by a light gauze or foam-type dressing. The skin at the site should be protected with a barrier cream, such as Criticaid® or Calmoseptine®. A protective powder such as Stomahesive® may also be applied.

Occasionally, the site will not close on its own. This is more common if the gastrostomy has been present for more than 9 months. The doctor will usually wait at least 4 to 6 weeks for the site to heal on its own. If the site does not close after that, it will need to be surgically closed in the operating room.

Contact your child’s health care provider or ______________________ at (______) ______-__________ if:

• Drainage at the site is excessive.

• There is severe skin breakdown at the site.

• You have questions or concerns about your child’s gastrostomy site.