Gastrostomy Button (MIC-KEY®) and Tube Care After First 8 Weeks

A gastrostomy button has been inserted into your child’s stomach to provide nutrition that he is unable to get by mouth. A special formula will be given through the button by a feeding tube.

Your child has a _______ French _________ cm MIC-KEY® button gastrostomy.

It was placed by Dr. __________________________________________ in the ____________________________________________ department.

Skin Care:

It is important to take care of the skin around your child’s gastrostomy button. Skin care needs to be done at least 2 times each day. The area around the gastrostomy button needs to stay clean and dry at all times. Talk to your child’s doctor about bathing and swimming instructions.

1. Wash the skin around the gastrostomy button with soap and water.
2. Rotate the gastrostomy button to fully clean all the skin around it.
3. Rinse the area well with warm water.
4. Dry the area well, especially the skin around the gastrostomy button.

Feeding Tubes:

There are only 2 types of feeding tubes that can be used with your child’s gastrostomy button. Do not put anything else into the gastrostomy button, including syringes.

1. Continuous Feeding Tubes (90° angle tube): This tube is attached for long periods of time with formula going in slowly. This prevents diarrhea, cramping and bloating. You may use this tubing for bolus feedings if you prefer.
2. Bolus Feeding Tubes: This tube is used for intermittent feedings. The tube is attached for the feedings or medication. It is removed until needed again.

Care of the Feeding Tube During Feedings:

- Attach the feeding tube to the button and "lock" in place.
- Flush the tube with 3 to 5 ml of warm tap water before and after each feeding.

Cleaning the Feeding Tubes:

1. Rinse the feeding tube well with tap water. Do not use dish soap to clean.
2. Let the feeding tube air dry between feedings.
3. Feeding tubes should be thrown away when they begin to look "cloudy" or become cracked.

Refer to the "Gastrostomy Tube Feeding" CARE CARD for how to give feeding.
**Button Maintenance:**

To be sure the gastrostomy button stays in place, check the water in the balloon weekly or as instructed. There should be 5-10 ml of tap water in the balloon except for 12 French gastrostomy buttons, which hold 3-4 ml of tap water. It is time to change the button when you notice:

- Formula is coming from the feeding tube.
- The button is becoming too loose or too tight.

**To Reorder Supplies:**

When reordering supplies, be sure to know the size of your child’s button gastrostomy tube. This can be found on the gastrostomy button and at the top of this card.

You can reorder supplies from your child’s home medical supply company:

Company Name: __________________________________________________

Phone Number: (_______) _______-__________

**Nutrition:**

Children fed via feeding tubes should have their formula and fluid intake evaluated by their primary care provider and nutritionist as follows:

- Children 5 years and younger – at least every 6 months
- Children 6 years and older – at least every year

**Call your child’s doctor or nurse if you notice any of the following:**

- Your child’s stomach remains bloated for more than one hour.
- Any redness swelling, drainage or skin breakdown around the gastrostomy button.
- Your child has pain, diarrhea, vomiting or unexplained fever.
- You notice thick, pink, raised skin to area around the tube/button site.
- Your child’s button comes out and you have difficulty replacing it.
- You are unable to give feeding or medication through your child’s tube.
- You need help replacing the button.
- You have questions or concerns about your child’s gastrostomy button.

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., call the nurse at (816) _______-__________.

Monday through Friday, after 5 p.m. and on weekends or holidays:

[ ] Call (816) 234-3000 and ask the operator to page the surgery resident on call.

[ ] Call (816) 234-3270 and ask for the interventional radiologist on call.