

# Home Care Instructions after Placement of GJ

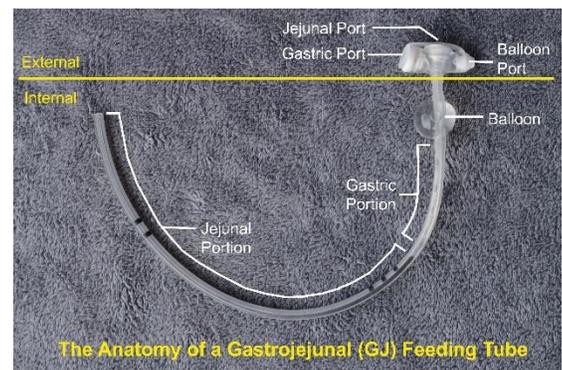
Your child is going home with a gastro-jejunal feeding tube commonly called a "G-J tube." A G-J tube is a tube placed through the abdomen directly into the stomach and then passes into the small intestine.

## The G-J Tube

- The G-J is made up of different sections: See Figure 1
- A round plastic disk or flange around the tube, which should sit snugly against the skin so the tube will not slide in and out of *the opening*.
- A balloon that will sit inside the stomach which helps to hold the tube in place when inflated.
- Three access ports at the end of the tube: 1) one goes directly to the stomach (G tube port), 2) a second goes directly into the jejunum (J tube port), 3) a third that goes to the balloon (Balloon port)

## Flushing the tube

To avoid clogging, flush the tube with 10ml of clean tap water after every feeding and/or medication administration, and at least every 8 hours. One of the most common culprits to tube clogging is crushed medication tablets. A common mistake is to crush the tablets and mix with water to make a paste. Even though the paste may be easily pushed into and through the tube, the paste still has a tendency to form like a cement inside the tube. To avoid this mishap we recommend that you have your doctor convert all possible medication orders to liquid form. However if you are left no option but to crush the medication, make sure you have added plenty of water.



## Protecting the tube

Keep your child from pulling on his or her tube. Here are some suggestions for avoiding accidental removal of the tube by your child.

- Disconnect the extension tubing after each use
- Keep the child's T-shirt over the tube. Once-piece, snap T-shirts work best for infants and toddlers
- An alternate way to cover the tube is to use an Ace wrap or stretchy gauze over it.

## Tube problems

- **If the tube has fallen out:** Immediately replace the GJ tube into stoma (the stoma begins closing within an hour or two) and secure the tube with Tegaderm or tape.
- **Balloon has broken:** Contact IR for replacement.
- **Feeding tube is clogged:** Take a 10 cc syringe with carbonated water or a clear carbonated soft drink, attach it to clogged tube and alternately push and pull on the syringe creating pressure and suction. Do this several minutes, leave the carbonated liquid in the tube for an hour and repeat attempts to flush the tube. You may repeat this two or three times, but if unsuccessful you will need to contact IR for a tube replacement.

## Skin care

- Wash your hands, then remove the old dressing.
- Carefully check the area around the tube once a day. Check for possible signs of infection such as redness, swelling, green or yellow drainage. The area right around the tube may be slightly pink with some crusted drainage. This is normal.
- Clean the skin under the plastic disk and around the tube daily with mild soap and water or during bath time, unless your nurse or doctor instructs you not to tub bath. Then rinse the skin using clean tap water and dry completely.

### **Routine GJ Tube changes**

- Please call your GI/Special Needs doctor first and ask them to place an order for a GJ change.
- Our team will then review order and verify that we have the right equipment available for the day of your appointment.
- You will receive a phone call from our outpatient scheduler who will assist you in making an appointment for your child.
- If you would like to verify that we have received the order or ask where we are in the process of scheduling your appointment, you may call us at 832-824-5565 choose option 2 for Main Campus or 832-227-1207 for West Campus.

### **For non-routine GJ Tube changes (tube is clogged, pulled out, or balloon broken)**

- During business hours (Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.) Please call your GI/Special Needs doctor first. Your doctor can determine the best course of action for your child. If they recommend a tube replacement, they can place an order at that time. Please then call us at 832-824-5565 (option 3 for Main Campus) or 832-227-1207 for West Campus, so that we can make an appointment for you as soon as possible.

### **During weekends, evenings, and holidays**

- Please call your GI/Special Needs doctor first. They will advise you to proceed to the Emergency Department for evaluation if they feel it is needed or they will advise you wait at home until the next business day. If you go to the Emergency Department the emergency room team will place an order for the tube placement and the on call interventional radiologist will be contacted.

### **Call your child's doctor if:**

- Signs of infection (redness, swelling, pus) around the G-button or the wound.
- Fever of 101 degrees Fahrenheit or greater.
- Your child misses a feeding or medication because of a problem with the GJ tube.
- If you are unable to unclog the tube.
- If the tube is leaking.

