

Jejunostomy Tube Insertion

Patient Information Sheet

A jejunostomy tube (G-J tube) has been passed through the skin into a portion of your small intestine. This tube can be used to deliver food, nutrients, fluids, and medications directly to your intestines or stomach.

We are sensitive to your needs and concerns and want to let you know your safety and well-being are our primary concern. These instructions will help you understand the recovery process.

Instructions after Jejunostomy Tube Placement

- Rest for the remainder of the day following your procedure.
- Have a responsible adult spend the night with you following your procedure.
- Do not drive for 24 hours following your procedure.
- Do not lift anything weighing over 5 kilograms (10 pounds) for 48 hours following your procedure.
- It is normal to feel some abdominal discomfort for the next few days following your procedure.

Diet

- Resume your feeds as ordered by the Radiologist (usually immediately) unless otherwise ordered.

Medications

- If needed for pain or discomfort, take Tylenol (acetaminophen) for the next 48 hours following your procedure. Follow the directions on the label.
- **Do not** use Aspirin or ibuprofen products, such as Advil or Motrin, as it may increase the chance bleeding.
- Resume your routine medications unless otherwise ordered by the Radiologist.

Dressing Care/Tube Care

- Please change the dressing around the tube at least once per week or as needed if it becomes loose.
- **Flush** the tube with 30 mls of warm water after each feeding to prevent leftover food in the tubing from causing a blockage in the tube.
- If using the tube to administer medication, flush the tube with 30 mls warm water before (in case the tube is blocked) **and** after to ensure that you receive the full dose of medication.



Bathing

- You may shower or sponge bath, but keep the tube insertion site out of the water and dry immediately following bathing.
- Clamp or close the tube before taking a shower.
- **Do not** bathe or swim (especially in lakes) while the tube is in place. Submersing the tube insertion site increases the chances of developing an infection.

What to watch for

- Fever more than 100°F (38°C) or chills
- Redness, pain, swelling, or leakage from the site
- A foul odor or pus at the tube site
- Vomiting
- If you have stitches that become loose or break
- If you are having difficulty flushing the tube
- If the tube becomes dislodged or pulled out

If you experience any of the above changes call your doctor, Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000), or go to your closest Emergency Department. Take this sheet with you.

Your tube will require routine changes; discuss this with your referring doctor. Your doctor will be required to complete and send an Interventional Radiology Special Procedures requisition referral to Diagnostic Imaging to set up scheduled changes every 4-6 months.

