

# About Gastro- Jejunal Tubes



**Surgical Clinic Department**

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## Gastro-Jejunal Tubes

**This tube is also called G-J or GJ tube.**

Your child cannot hold the feeds given through the gastrostomy tube (G-tube) in the stomach so another tube has been put in. This tube is called a G-J tube because it goes through the gastrostomy but ends in the intestine which is also called the jejunum. It does not go into the stomach. The tube is guided into position with the help of X-ray images. For this reason the tube is inserted in the radiology department.

These tubes are not permanent. They need to be replaced about every 4 months. Your family doctor, pediatrician or specialist should arrange for the tube to be replaced every 4 months.

## What do I do if it blocks ?

- Flush with warm water.
- If the tube remains blocked: Mix a cotazyme capsule (pancreatic enzyme), and 1 teaspoon baking soda with warm water. Draw up this mixture in a 10ml syringe and push through the G-J tube. Let the mixture sit in the tube for 15 minutes.
- Repeat if the tube does not clear the first time.
- If you cannot clear the blockage arrange to have the tube changed. (See below for what to do).

## What do I do if the tube falls out?

A G-J tube may fall out more often than the G-tube. Make sure that the tube is well taped and secured.

**Always carry an emergency kit with:**

- foley catheter
- 5 ml syringe to inflate the balloon on the foley catheter
- wash cloth

- cotazyme capsule (pancreatic enzyme)
- 1/2 teaspoon of baking soda
- tape
- water-based lubricant such as KY Jelly
- water to inflate balloon & mix solution
- small container
- 60 ml syringe
- phone numbers

***If the tube falls out do not panic:*** Place the foley catheter into the stoma to prevent the stoma from closing. Follow these steps:

1. Wash your hands
2. Test the foley catheter for leaks by drawing up 5mls of water into a syringe. Push the water through the syringe into the balloon port of the foley. Deflate the balloon by emptying out the water.
3. Insert the catheter: First cover the tip of catheter with lubricant. Gently push the catheter into the stoma about 5 cm. Draw 5 mls of water into the syringe and inflate the balloon. Remove syringe from the catheter and gently pull the catheter so it is snug against the stomach wall. Clamp the tube.
4. Clean the skin. Dry well. Tape the tube to the skin.
5. Arrange for a new G-J tube. (See below)

## Arranging for a new gastro-jejunal tube

Call your child's specialist, or the doctor who normally cares for your child. Call during normal working hours as this is not an emergency. Ask him or her to arrange for a new tube. These tubes are replaced Monday through Friday from

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8:00am-4:00pm in the radiology department at B.C.'s Children's Hospital.

**In the meantime:** You can use the gastrostomy tube for your child's medications unless you have been told not to give anything into your child's stomach. Talk with your doctor at your follow-up appointment about this so you know what to do. Give small amounts of fluid through the gastrostomy until the tube can be replaced.

**Note:** If your child can't hold even small amounts of fluid and/or if your child is not urinating or has very few wet diapers, go to your local hospital. They can start an IV so your child gets the fluids she or he needs until the new tube is placed.

## If you need help:



1. Surgical Nurse Clinician at B.C.'s Children's Hospital 604-875-2345 local 7720 **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00am-4:00pm**
2. Gastroenterology Nurses at B.C.'s Children's Hospital 604-875-2345 local 2772 **Monday to Friday 8:00am-4:00pm**
3. Nurse clinicians at Sunny Hill Hospital 604-453-8300 local 8280 **Monday to Friday 8:00am-4:00pm**
4. Refer to your Home Tube Feeding Manual

## Its good to ask!

At Children's & Women's Health Centre of British Columbia we believe parents are partners on the health care team. We want you to be as informed as possible. This brochure will answer some of your questions. Please ask about things you do not understand and share your concerns. If you have any questions, please call: **604-875-2345, local 7720**