Gastrostomy Education for Pediatric Patients

Your child has a Mic-key Gastrostomy tube (GT) in place. This is a feeding tube that has been inserted into the stomach through the abdominal wall. It is held in place with an inflatable balloon on the inside of the stomach. The size of the Mickey is stamped on the plastic and is visible when you open the Mickey cover (door on top).

Right after surgery:
- It is important that the Mickey is not removed for the first 4 weeks (1 month) after surgery. This gives the stomach time to heal completely.
- You may be advised to keep the G-tube secured with a dressing called Coban.
- It is helpful to dress the baby in “onesies” (one piece outfits) to protect the G-tube from being pulled out.
- You will not be using the G-tube for continuous feedings for the first 6 weeks after surgery.
- Your surgeon will let you know when to begin continuous feedings.
- IF THE MIC-KEY G-TUBE COMES OUT WITHIN THE FIRST MONTH AFTER SURGERY, CALL THE OFFICE AT 706-721-3941. CALL IMMEDIATELY NO MATTER WHAT TIME OF DAY IT OCCURS.
- DO NOT LET ANYONE EXCEPT YOUR SURGEON OR SOMEONE HE DESIGNATES PUT THE MICKEY BACK IN.

Care of the Mickey:
- Wash the skin around the tube daily with a mild soap, rinse with warm water and pat dry.
- If there is drainage around the area, gently clean with a Q-tip saturated with soap and water.
- Dry the area well.
- Never use creams, lotions, ointments or peroxide unless directed by your surgeon.
- The Mic-key button should turn freely.

Feeding With the Mickey:
- You will be shown how to use the Mic-key G-tube.
- Wash your hands before feeding.
- Line up the black mark on the Mic-key button with the black mark on the feeding set. Insert then turn clockwise (to the right) to lock the tubing in place.
- When you first leave the hospital you will likely be giving bolus feedings (a set amount every few hours).
- Attach a 2 ounce (60 ml) syringe to the extension tubing with the plunger removed. Be sure the side medication port is closed.
- Pour formula in and allow to run in slowly. You can regulate the flow by how high you hold the syringe or by opening and closing the clamp on the extension set. Your surgeon will prescribe formula and amount to feed.
- Flush the Mic-key extension tube with 10-20 mls of water until the tubing is clear.
• If continuous feeding pour formula into feeding bag, hang bag on pump as instructed and feed at prescribed rate. DO NOT BEGIN CONTINUOUS FEEDINGS UNTIL INSTRUCTED BY THE SURGEON.
• Change the bag daily. Rinse all parts of the feeding system well after each feeding.

Frequently Asked Questions:

• It is common for drainage or leaking around the Mic-key button to occur. Drainage may happen because food or formula is coming out onto the skin from the stomach, around the Mic-key. This can happen when the balloon does not have enough water in it.
• Often, scar tissue (or granulation tissue) develops around the Mic-key site. This is red, puffy looking tissue. It is not an infection, it is scar tissue.
• Do not inflate the balloon for the first month. The balloon port is the side port which can be identified by the letters “BAL”.
• Your surgeon will let you know when your child can get in the bathtub or pool with the Mic-key.
• If you need to give medicines through the side port you will be shown how to do this.

Call your surgeon when:

• Feeds will not flow down the feeding tube, or the Mic-key acts as if it is clogged.
• If the Mic-key comes out or is very loose.
• If you have other question or concerns.

Changing the Mickey G-Tube:

The G-tube will be changed every 3 to 4 months. You can schedule an appointment by calling:

The Pediatric Surgery Office at 706-721-3941.

Glossary

_Balloon:_ Small water filled area of the Mic-key to help keep the Mic-key secure in the stomach.

_Bolus feedings:_ Small amounts of formula fed over about thirty minutes every few hours.

_Coban:_ A type of dressing material that adheres to itself and doesn't need to stick to the skin.

_Continuous Feedings:_ Feedings of formula that are given with a feeding pump over several hours. They are often given overnight while a child is asleep. Some children may receive feedings around the clock.

_Feeding Set or Extension Set:_ A piece of tubing that secures in the Mic-key button to make connection to a syringe or feeding pump easier.

_G-Tube or Gastrostomy Tube:_ A general term for a feeding tube that goes through the stomach wall directly into the stomach.

_Granulation Tissue:_ Scar tissue which may be red in color that forms around the Mic-key button.

_Mic-key:_ A low profile tube for feeding directly into the stomach.

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