

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR PEG TUBE CARE

Care of Area around the Tube:

First 10 Days:

1. Do not use the tube for 24 hours after placement.
2. Inspect the skin for redness, tenderness, swelling irritation, presence of purulent drainage, or leakage.
3. Inspect the tube for proper placement. This is done by ‘twirling’ the tube in both directions for a full circle. If resistance is met, gently pull the plastic bumper back from the skin until the tube can be easily ‘twirled’. The tube should be able to move in and out of the skin site a small amount.
4. Change the dressing at the incision site twice a day during the first 10 days.
 - a. Clean the area around the tube with hydrogen peroxide using a cotton-tipped applicator. Use a spiral pattern beginning next to the site and move outward.
 - b. Allow area to dry.
 - c. Apply betadine ointment with a clean applicator.
 - d. Cover the incision with a clean 4”x 4” gauze dressing.

Daily Care (after the first 10 days)

1. The dressing should no longer be necessary.
2. Showering or tub bathing can be resumed.
3. Inspect the skin for redness, tenderness, swelling, irritation, presence of purulent drainage, or leakage.
4. Inspect the tube for proper placement by using the ‘twirling’ technique as described above. This is important to insure that the tube does not damage the lining of the stomach.
5. Clean the site daily.
 - a. Cleanse the skin with soap and water. Use a spiral pattern beginning next to the site and move outward.
 - b. Dry thoroughly.
 - c. Recheck the tube for proper placement by ‘twirling’.
6. Hydrogen peroxide may be used as necessary to remove any crusts, if present. Apply with a cotton-tipped applicator.
7. Avoid excess tension on the tube. This can be done by securing the distal (adapter) end to the skin with tape.