

# Possible G-Tube Problems

## Blocked G-Tube

- Food or medicine may build up in the tube or body fluids may crust around the opening. Both of these things may block the flow of your child's feeding.
- To prevent blockage, always flush the G-Tube **before** and **after** each feeding or medication with 5ml of water and clean the tubing end to keep it from crusting.
- If the tube seems blocked and you are not able to flush it, call the Pediatric Surgery APN.

## Drainage Around the G-Tube

- Some drainage around the G-Tube is normal especially soon after the G-Tube is put in.
- Clean the skin around the G-Tube with mild soap and water 2 to 3 times a day.
- Make sure you remove all crusted areas from the tube and surrounding skin.
- If leaking or drainage continues, is excessive (a large amount) or if the site becomes painful, call the Pediatric Surgery APN.

## Vomiting

- Vomiting (throwing up) may happen if the G-Tube moves forward in the stomach blocking the stomach outlet. Follow your healthcare team's instructions for checking the placement of the tube.
- Vomiting may also be caused by excessive gas and overfeeding. If this happens, allow air to escape or vent by opening the clamp, removing the plug, or opening the end of the G-Tube extension set. This may slowly relieve the problem.

## Diarrhea

- Diarrhea is a common problem for children with a G-Tube.
- There are many possible causes of diarrhea, such as the type of liquid food, medicines, changes in the normal bacteria levels in the stomach and intestines, and how fast the liquid food is given.
- If your child has diarrhea, talk to your healthcare provider about possible causes and treatment.

## Breakdown of the G-Tube

- Over time, the G-Tube may break down and get harder to use.
- Sometimes the end used for feeding will break off or split or the connection becomes less secure.
- These are signs that the tube needs to be replaced.
- Most G-Tubes are changed every 3 months.

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## Granulation Tissue

- Granulation tissue is the body's way of trying to repair the surgical incision.



- The tissue may “overgrow” at the G-Tube insertion site and need treatment.
- If the area bleeds or there is a large amount of overgrown tissue, call the Pediatric Surgery APN.

## When to Call Your Child's Doctor

- Fever
- Bad smell or drainage around the tube
- Redness at tube site
- Hard or swollen belly 1 hour after feeding
- Ongoing diarrhea after feedings
- Still hungry after feedings
- Seems to be in pain
- A lot of leaking

## If Your Child's G-Tube Falls Out

**This is a serious problem that needs medical care right away because the G-Tube opening can close down quickly.**

- Cover the site with a clean dry gauze or Band-Aid.
- **During the day Monday to Friday:** Call the Pediatric Surgery APNs to ask for an urgent clinic appointment (773-702-6169).
- **During the night or on weekends:** Come to the Emergency Room for replacement.

## Changing the G-Tube

The G-Tube is **changed every 3 months**.

- If the balloon stops holding water or gets a slow leak before this time, it will need to be changed. A leaking balloon will not harm your child, but as the balloon deflates, you may see more leaking around the G-Tube or the G-Tube may come out.
- We can teach parents how to change the G-Tube at home to keep from having an extra trip to the hospital. If you need help changing the G-Tube, call the Pediatric Surgery APNs to ask for an appointment.
- If a Button or MIC-G Tube has been in place for less than 3 months, place the broken G-Tube in a plastic bag and call the G-Tube manufacturer customer service department to ask for a replacement. **This is only for Button or MIC-G Tubes.**

**AMT Brand** (Mini-One) Customer Service

Phone: (800) 869-7382 or Email: [cs@appliedmedical.net](mailto:cs@appliedmedical.net)

**Avanos Brand** (MIC-KEY and MIC-G Tubes) Customer Service

Phone: (844) 428-2667 or Email: [piq@avanos.com](mailto:piq@avanos.com)