



Gynecologic Disease Center

At Walter Reed Army Medical Center

Gastrostomy Tube (G-Tube)

The G-Tube is a tube that is inserted directly into the stomach. It can be used to put anything into the stomach that you would normally swallow. It can also be used to empty the stomach if you feel nauseated or unable to digest food or fluids.

Skin Site Care:

The skin around where the tube is inserted is just like the skin anywhere else on your stomach.

1. While showering, wash the tube and skin around the tube with soap and water then pat the area dry. (You can either leave the current dressing on before & while you shower, or remove it, take your shower, then clean the site with the hydrogen peroxide.)
2. If you have not done so already, carefully remove the old dressing.
3. Wash your hands well after removal.
4. Inspect the skin where the catheter exits for any sign of irritation. If the skin looks red or irritated, call Sarah and we can discuss tricks to take care of it. Sometimes we need to add a little antibiotic ointment.
5. Next, use a q-tip and clean around the stoma site with Hydrogen peroxide.
6. If it looks good- terrific! There should be nothing else to do.
7. Open the gauze pads; there will be two pads in the package. Cut one of the pads $\frac{1}{2}$ ways & slip it under the tube. Cover the tube and the other pad with the second pad.
8. Cover the site with the stretchy cover-roll tape.

See the handout on G-Tubes for extra information.

Flushing: (Once per day)

- Wash your hands well
- Wipe the cap 1st with an alcohol prep pad.
- Using the pre-filled saline syringe, gently insert & screw (at the same time) the syringe into the cap of the tube
- Gently push the plunger of the syringe to flush the tube with the water. If you meet resistance, check to be sure the tube is not kinked. THIS SHOULD NOT CAUSE ANY DISCOMFORT, if you note any pain, stop & call us.
- Un-screw syringe (be careful not to unscrew the cap at the same time).
- Dispose of the syringe in a hard container & bring back to us for disposal (do not throw into your regular trash- needs to be thrown with medical waste)
- That's it- you are done.



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Supplies Needed for Pick-Up at MTB:

- 2 Boxes 4x4 Kendall Curity Cover Sponges
- 1 Box Normal Saline Flushes
- 4 boxes 6 inx2 yards Cover-Roll Stretch
- 1 Box Sterile Cotton Tipped Applicators
- 2 bottles Hydrogen Peroxide
- 1 Box non-sterile gloves- size Med

What to watch for, call for

1. Call for concerns or questions.
2. Take your temperature twice per day (morning & evening). Call and report to the Emergency Room for an elevation of 101 or above. If you have a temperature of 100.5, take your temperature again in 4 hours. If it is still 100.5 or higher, call us.
3. Monitor the G-tube insertion site for redness, pain, swelling or drainage around site. Call if these symptoms appear.
4. Call for new pain, nausea or vomiting.
5. Call if you cannot eat or tolerate taking fluids.
6. Call if you have not moved your bowels for three days.
7. Instruct family, friends and visitors to wash their hands when they come to see you. Ask them NOT to visit if they have a fever or are ill.

Phone Numbers:

Sarah Bernstein RN, MS, AOCN, GYN Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist,
202-782-3559 (Mon-Fri 8am- 5pm)

Melissa Pierre RN, BSN, GYN Oncology case manager,
202-782-3557 (Mon-Fri 8am- 5pm)

Evenings, weekends & Holidays:

Call the Ward 65 nursing station at 202-782-1665. Ask for the GYN Oncology resident on-call. Ask that they be paged. If you do not receive a call back within 30 minutes, call back (the physician may be taking care of another patient or their pager did not work.....) if they cannot talk at that moment, the nurse should be able to direct you.

Residents Phone: 202-782-8790- this phone is monitored and messages are checked, so if you need to speak to one of the doctors, and it is not urgent, you can leave a message here.



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IF YOU KNOW YOU NEED TO COME INTO THE EMERGENCY ROOM, Please give the doctors a call before you leave and let them know you are on your way and when you arrive in the Emergency room, let them know you are a GYN Oncology patient and the GYN Oncology resident needs to be paged.

Follow-up Appointment

Return to see us in the first floor GYN Clinic to see Dr. _____
on _____ at _____. Please arrive 15 minutes before your appointment. The
phone number for the clinic is 202-782-6114 if you run into a problem.



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Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Building 2, Room 6743
Washington DC 20307

202-782-8513 (Phone) *Please note: only military health beneficiaries should call this telephone number.*
202-782-9278 (Fax)

This material is provided for informational purposes only as a service of the Gynecologic Disease Center. It is not intended to provide comprehensive coverage of the subject or to suggest a diagnosis or treatment modality. For further information on this subject, please contact your health care provider.