PEJ Tube: Percutaneous Endoscopic Jejunostomy Tube

A PEJ tube is a feeding tube that is put inside an outer tube which goes to the stomach. The inside tube goes into the small intestine (jejunum). A special instrument, called an endoscope, is used to insert the tube. The endoscope has a light on it that helps the doctor put the feeding tube through the mouth into the small intestine (jejunum). The tube that is for feeding is small, therefore, not all formulas will go down the tube.

A PEJ tube is used to:

- Give liquids or medicines into the small intestine. This helps prevent your feeding from backing up.
- Remove fluids and gas from the stomach

Name (Type) of Tube _____________________ Size_____________________

General information:

- Your PEJ tube has a disc or dome on the inside of your stomach for support. A disc or crossbar is against your skin on the outside.

- These support discs keep the tube from moving. The outside disc should stay close to the skin (¼”) and should not move freely back and forth.

- Your PEJ tube has two openings. One is for feeding and the other is to drain stomach contents.

- Your tube may look different than this picture depending on the company that makes the tube.

- Your tube should be marked with a permanent marker where it leaves the body. This is so you can check its position. If you have stitches holding the tube, they are removed in 5 - 7 days.
Caring for your tube:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water. Rinse and towel dry.

2. Gather your supplies:
   - cotton swabs
   - soap and water
   - ointment, if ordered
   - tape

3. Gently lift the sides of the disc and check the skin under it everyday. Call your nurse or doctor if there are any of these signs of infection:
   - Unusual redness
   - Tenderness
   - Warmth
   - Unusual draining
     - Thick
     - Foul smelling
     - Yellow-green color

If the disc or crossbar leaves a mark or dent on your skin, call your health professional. The disc or crossbar may need to be moved.

4. Check to see if the mark on your tube is at the same point next to your skin as when it was placed. Call your nurse or doctor if your tube is not at the same distance.

5. Clean your skin under the disc around the tube everyday with a cotton swab dipped in soap and water. Then clean with cotton swab dipped in tap water and dry thoroughly with new cotton swab.
6. Apply ____________ ointment around the tube if it is ordered.

7. If skin irritation is present, dry the area with a hair dryer set on a cool setting for a few minutes. Remove the cause of the irritation. Protect the skin with waterproof ointment, such as Desitin ® or zinc oxide.

8. A gauze dressing around the tube is not needed unless there is drainage. If there is drainage, read the **Gauze Dressing Method** handout. Your nurse will show you how to do this dressing.

9. Gently make a loop with the tube and tape it securely to your abdomen. This helps prevent the tube from being pulled out by accident.