# G or GJ-tubes

## Problems and what to do

For future use it is a good idea to:

- If you have a long tube, check and record its length.
- Keep the site clean and dry.
- Make sure the tube is well secured to the skin.
- Flush after each feeding and medications.
- Flush every 6 to 8 hours if on continuous infusions.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>What to do</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Granulation tissue</strong></td>
<td>Granulation tissue is thick, red and raised and has an uneven shape. It can be irritating around the tube site. It is common for granulation tissue to form around the G or GJ-tube. When this type of tissue forms it is hard to get a tight fit between the tube and the skin. Leakage of acid from the stomach onto the skin can happen.</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Secure the tube to the skin. This reduces irritation from rubbing. A good way to secure the tube by wrapping gauze around it." /> <img src="image2.png" alt="Try normal saline soaks and/or alcohol to dry the site out as directed." /> <img src="image3.png" alt="Silver nitrate can be used to remove the tissue." /></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Infection</strong></td>
<td>Redness around the tube site is usually caused by irritation from stomach contents leaking onto the skin. It causes a burning feeling. Sometimes a red tube site that is painful and swollen is caused by an infection. A tube site which is moist and sealed up can cause an infection.</td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Check the tube site for leakage of stomach contents. Fix this problem first." /> <img src="image5.png" alt="Review daily skin care of site." /> <img src="image6.png" alt="Apply normal saline soaks 3 times a day. Apply the warm soak and remove when cool." /> <img src="image7.png" alt="Apply a light dressing." /></td>
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please turn over ➔
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| **Leaking around the tube** | Leakage of stomach contents around the tube quickly causes a burning feeling or discomfort and skin irritation. Causes of leakage include:  
• wider G-tube site  
• granulation tissue  
• poor nutrition      | **Tube**  
• Is the tube secured?  
• Is it swinging around stretching the ostomy?  
• Do you see granulation tissue so there is not a good fit?  

**Make sure the tube is secured tightly, and that the balloon is properly inflated.**  
While you try to determine the cause of the leak, protect the skin with skin barrier creams. |
| **Blockage**              | This can happen slowly over time. The blockage can be from the build up of formula on the inside of the tube.  
It can happen suddenly as well. Blockage can be from the crushed medications. | **To remove the blockage and clear the tube**  
flush the tube with warm water.  
For G-tubes with a balloon inside. If you cannot clear the tube, you will need to change it.  

**To help prevent blockage:**  
• flush the tubes well after each feeding and medications.  
• flush the tube every 6 to 8 hours if on continuous infusion. |
| **Migration**             | Movement or migration of a long G-tube out of the stomach can cause vomiting and diarrhea. Feeling agitated and irritable is common.  
A GJ-tube which migrates or moves does not usually cause many symptoms. | **Check and record the length of the G-tube for future use.**  
**Make sure that the external securing device is working.**  
**If the tube does not have a external securing device, secure it with tape.**  
**If you know the G-tube has migrated it will need to be repositioned.** |

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PD 4100 – 02/2005
WPC/PtEd/ChHosp/GJTubeProblems-th.doc
dt/February 15, 2005