



## G or GJ-tubes Problems and what to do

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**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.

Problem	Description	What to do
<b>Granulation tissue</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure the tube to the skin. This reduces irritation from rubbing. A good way to secure the tube by wrapping gauze around it.</li> <li>• Try normal saline soaks and/or alcohol to dry the site out as directed.</li> <li>• Silver nitrate can be used to remove the tissue.</li> </ul>
<b>Infection</b>	<p>Redness around the tube site is usually caused by irritation from stomach contents leaking onto the skin. It causes a burning feeling.</p> <p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Check the tube site for leakage of stomach contents. Fix this problem first.</li> <li>✓ Review daily skin care of site.</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apply normal saline soaks 3 times a day. Apply the warm soak and remove when cool.</li> <li>2. Apply a light dressing.</li> </ol>

Problem	Description	What to do
<p><b>Leaking around the tube</b></p>	<p>Leakage of stomach contents around the tube quickly causes a burning feeling or discomfort and skin irritation.</p> <p>Causes of leakage include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wider G-tube site</li> <li>• granulation tissue</li> <li>• poor nutrition</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tube</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the tube secured?</li> <li>• Is it swinging around stretching the ostomy?</li> <li>• Do you see granulation tissue so there is not a good fit?</li> </ul> <p><b>Make sure the tube is secured tightly, and that the balloon is properly inflated.</b></p> <p>While you try to determine the cause of the leak, protect the skin with skin barrier creams.</p>
<p><b>Blockage</b></p>	<p>This can happen slowly over time. The blockage can be from the build up of formula on the inside of the tube.</p> <p>It can happen suddenly as well. Blockage can be from the crushed medications.</p>	<p>To remove the blockage and clear the tube flush the tube with warm water.</p> <p>For G-tubes with a balloon inside. If you cannot clear the tube, you will need to change it.</p> <p><b>To help prevent blockage:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• flush the tubes well after each feeding and medications.</li> <li>• flush the tube every 6 to 8 hours if on continuous infusion.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Migration</b></p>	<p>Movement or migration of a long G-tube out of the stomach can cause vomiting and diarrhea. Feeling agitated and irritable is common.</p> <p>A GJ-tube which migrates or moves does not usually cause many symptoms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check and record the length of the G-tube for future use.</li> <li>• Make sure that the external securing device is working.</li> <li>• If the tube does not have a external securing device, secure it with tape.</li> <li>• If you know the G-tube has migrated it will need to be repositioned.</li> </ul>