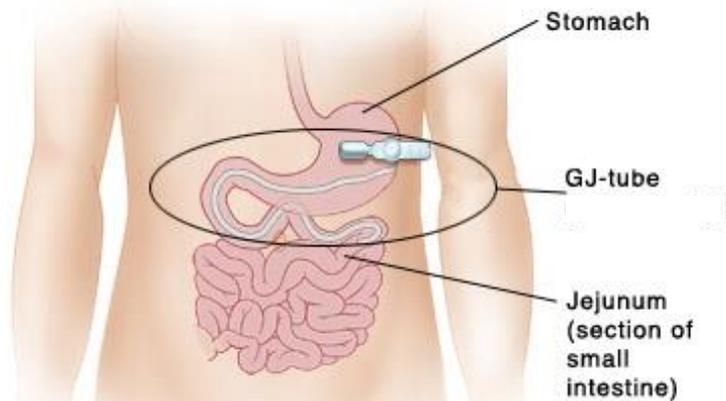


## **MIC Key Button Gastrojejunal Tube (GJ Tube)**

This teaching sheet should be used with the book **Caring for a Child with a G-tube**. If you did not get the care notebook, please ask your child's nurse.

### **What is a MIC Key GJ Tube?**

- A GJ-tube is a feeding tube.
- It is placed through the gastrostomy tract, to part of the small intestine called the jejunum.
- The tubing goes through the stomach and goes right into the jejunum, where the feeding is given.
- There are different brands of GJ-tubes, MIC Key is one of the brand names.



### **Why does my child have a GJ-tube?**

- Your child has had a hard time accepting feedings into the stomach.
- This may be due to slow stomach emptying, severe stomach pain or gagging and vomiting during feedings.
- Some children can't gain weight when this happens.
- Some children may also have breathing problems such as asthma, wheezing or aspiration when feedings are given into the stomach.

### **How long will my child have a GJ-tube?**

- A GJ-tube is a temporary tube.
- Most children need the GJ-tube for short periods of time.
- Once the first GJ-tube is placed and feedings are going well, attempts will be made to go back to stomach feedings.
- If your child can accept being fed into the stomach, the GJ feeding tube will be changed to a gastrostomy tube (G-tube).
- If your child needs a GJ-tube longer than 6 months, your child's doctor may talk with you about the possible need for a permanent jejunostomy (J-tube).

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**How do I care for a GJ-tube?** (See page 12 and 15-16 in the book *Caring for a Child with a G-tube*)

Clean the site daily.

- Get your supplies.
  - Soap and water
  - Washcloth or Q-tips®
  - Tape
  - 2x2 split gauze (optional)
- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- Gently tilt the button for cleaning.
- Clean the skin site with soap and water.
- Rinse the skin with water and dry the area well.
- Use one 2x2 split gauze if there is drainage. This protects the skin and soaks up drainage.
- Change this every day with site cares or more often if soaked.
  - If there is no drainage, leave the site open to air.
- Put a tension loop around the tube to help secure the tube.
  - Move the location of the tension loop every 1-3 days.
  - This keeps the tube from leaning the same way each time and making the hole larger.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.

**How do I feed my child using a GJ-tube?** (See pages 18 through 21 in the book *Caring for a Child with a G-tube*)

Feedings are given by a slow drip method to children with GJ tubes.

- This helps keep the feedings from causing your child to vomit, have diarrhea or discomfort.
- Feedings will be given directly into the jejunum.
- This part of the body can only handle a slow drip-feeding.
- Do not give bolus feedings into the J-port.
- The J-port of the button is used to give feedings, liquids and medicine into your child's jejunum.

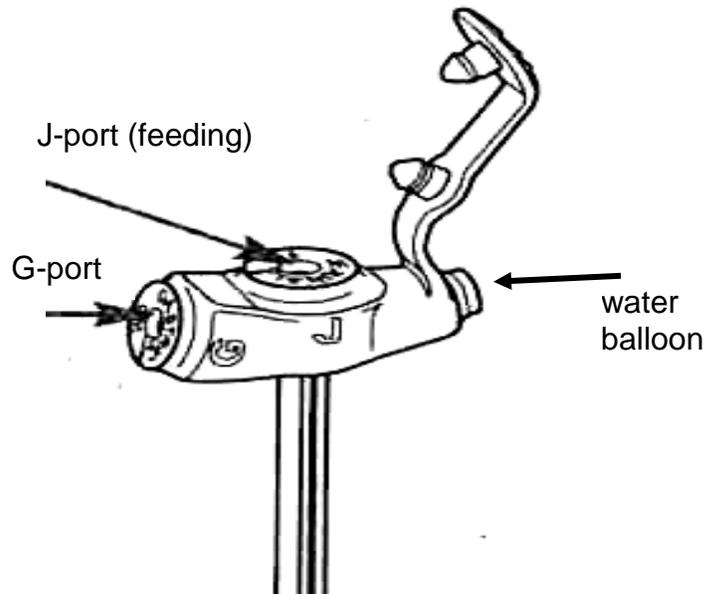
## Feeding, continued

## Description of a MIC-Key GJ Button

There are three ports on the MIC Key GJ-tube:

1. a jejunal feeding port = the middle port
2. gastric feeding port= side port
3. a water balloon port=port used to check the water balloon.

**Note:** Do not check amount of water in water balloon. Doing so might cause the tube to come out.



- Get your supplies:
  - Formula
  - Feeding bag & feeding pump
  - Extension set
- Attach the feeding bag to the extension set.
- Fill the feeding bag and prime the tubing.
- Put feeding bag into pump.
- Set the feeding rate as you were told by the doctor and dietician.
- Attach the J-extension set to the J-port.
- Start feeding pump.
- When feeding is done, disconnect GJ-tube from feeding pump.
- Flush the J-Port of GJ-tube with 10 mL water, or less if your child's doctor told you to do so.
- Clamp and remove the extension set.
- Close the feeding port cover.

### Flushing (See page 17 in the book *Caring for a Child with a G-tube*)

Flushing helps keep the tube from clogging.

- Flush two times every day and after each time you use the tube. Use 10 mLs of water.
- Get your supplies.
  - Syringes sizes 5 mL and 10 mL
  - Water
  - Amount for my child: \_\_\_\_\_mL

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 Flushing, continued

- Get 10 mLs of water in the syringe.
- Put the syringe tip in the J-port.
- Flush the J-port quickly with 10 mL of water. Do this two times every day.
- Flush the tube after any medicine is given.
  - If more than one medicine is given at a time, flush after each medicine.
- Flush anytime a feeding is done.
- During continuous feedings, stop the feedings to do these flushes and then restart.
- If your child is less than 10 pounds or on a fluid restriction, do not flush the tube unless your child's doctor or nurse tells you to.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.

### **How do I vent or drain the stomach using a GJ-tube?** *(See page 22 in the book Caring for a Child with a G-tube)*

Venting, sometimes called “burping through the G-tube,” lets your child’s stomach get rid of extra air or food. Venting can be done before, during or after feedings, or at any time your child is showing signs of discomfort.

- Get your supplies
  - For venting: 60 mL syringe.
  - For gravity drainage: Drainage bag.
  - Extension set.
  - MIC Extension set or Kanga adapter. This will help the drainage bag stay attached to the GJ-tube.
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- Close the clamp of the G-port. Then open the port cover.
- Put the syringe without the plunger into the G-port of the GJ-tube. Open the clamp.
- Hold the syringe above the belly.
  - Keep syringe in place for 1 to 2 minutes, or longer if needed.
  - You may hear air or see excess food, stomach juices rise or drain into the syringe or bag.
- Be sure all stomach juices have gone back down to the stomach or empty them if you have been told to.
- Flush the G-Port as explained above.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- Some children need frequent or continuous drainage of the G-port.
  - Your child’s doctor or nurse will decide if this is needed.
  - If your child needs this done, you will be shown how to use a drainage bag.
  - You may need to replace the stomach juices with another fluid into the feedings.

**Troubleshooting problems** (See pages 27 through 30 in the book *Caring for a Child with a G-tube and Teaching Sheet #3005 – GJ Tube Plan of Care*)

**What if the GJ-tube is clogged?**

- Use a 3 mL syringe filled with non-sugared carbonated water or club soda and try to flush.
- You may need to push and pull on the plunger in order to unclog.
- Continue this procedure using a 3 mL syringe filled with carbonated water.
- Use the push and pull action with the plunger until the tube flushes easily.

**What do I do if the GJ-tube slips out of the tract or if I cannot flush it?**

- All GJ-tubes are replaced in the Interventional Radiology Department using a special X-ray called fluoroscopy.
- If your child's GJ-tube comes out or is clogged and you can't get it unclogged, please call to have the tube replaced. Use the list below for calling:
  - Monday through Friday 7:00 AM – 5:30 PM: 414-266-3152 or 414-266-3648
  - All other hours: 414-266-3116
- If the GJ-tube becomes dislodged or clogged at other times, you can try to feed your child into the stomach with formula or Pedialyte® or Infalyte® until the tube can be replaced or repositioned.
- Some children may need IV fluids and possible hospital admission while the GJ tube is not functioning. It will depend on your child's age and special medical needs.
- If the GJ-tube is dislodged or clogged and your child is unable to get liquids, feedings or medicines during a time when the Interventional Radiology Department cannot replace the tube, please look at the instructions your doctor has given.
- If you have any concerns please call your child's doctor.

**What do I do if the GJ-tube comes out all of the way?**

- If your child's GJ tube falls out of the tract and you have been instructed on G-tube replacement, you may replace with an AMT long tube; then call for more instructions.
- If you are unable to replace a G-tube, call Interventional Radiology Department:
  - Monday through Friday 7:00 AM – 5:30 PM: 414-266-3152 or 414-266-3648
  - All other hours: 414-266-3116

***\*Other teaching sheets to help with this procedure: #3008 – Long Indwelling Tube with Water Balloon Insertion Procedure***

## Information about replacing a G-tube when a GJ-tube has been in place

This information is only if you have been told that it is safe to replace a tube and if you were shown how to replace a tube.

- Keep an emergency kit in your child's backpack or diaper bag. Use a Ziploc® bag to hold all of the supplies:
  - Spare tube (AMT long tube).
  - Water for balloon.
  - 10 mL syringe to add water to balloon.
  - Water soluble lubricant such as K-Y jelly®.
  - Wash cloth or diaper wipes to help you clean up.

***\*Other teaching sheets to help with this procedure: #3008 – Long Indwelling Tube with Water Balloon Insertion Procedure.***

## Routine GJ-tube changes

- GJ-tubes need to be replaced in Interventional Radiology department every 3 to 4 months.
- This needs to be done Monday-Friday from 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM.
- Please call 414-266-3152 to schedule the tube replacement.

**ALERT:** Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if:

- Your child vomits and gags with feedings.
- Your child has diarrhea.
- The skin around the tube has drainage (pus).
- The skin around the tube is red, swollen or sore to touch.
- You are unable to use the tube or it came out.
- Your child has special health care needs that were not covered by this information.
- Rarely, the tube may cause a hole in the intestines. This is an emergency. Seek assistance immediately. Signs of this would include increased size of belly, looking tired, and belly pain.

**This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.**

