

## **Gauze and Tape Dressing for G-tubes and J-tubes**

This is a teaching sheet to be used with the book **Caring for a Child with a G-tube** (see page 14 of the book). If you did not get a care notebook, please ask your child's nurse.

### **What is a gauze and tape dressing?**

- It can be used when a long indwelling tube without a stabilization bar or disc is in place.
- It is used to help heal certain skin problems around a tube.
- The dressing helps hold the tube securely in place and promote healing.
- This dressing will need to be changed daily or more often if the dressing is dirty.
- This dressing is not often used.



### **How is the gauze and tape dressing changed?**

- Get your supplies.
  - Two 6 inch long pieces of tape (1 inch wide, split lengthwise about 3 inches)
  - 2" x 2" gauze pads with a slit cut to the middle. Pre-cut gauze may also be used (2 pieces)
  - Washcloth or Q-tips®
  - Soap and water
  - 1 inch tape for tension loop
  - Safety pin for tension loop
- Wash hands with soap and water.
- Remove the old dressing.
- Clean the skin site with soap and water using a washcloth or Q-tips®.
  - Your child's daily bath is a good time to do this care.
- If the skin site around the tube has dried, crusty build-up, soak with a warm, wet washcloth or gauze to help get drainage off.
- Rinse skin with water and dry the area well.
- Check the placement of the tube. Only do this after the stitches are removed.
- Gently turn or spin the tube in the tract.
  - This stops the skin from sticking to the tube.
- Gently pull back on the tube until the mushroom or water balloon is snug against the stomach wall.

- Use 2 pieces of 2" x 2" gauze pads with a pre-cut slit. Lay them around the tube.



- Take one piece of the split tape. Fold up two narrow ends to make tabs. This piece of tape will look like a pair of pants.



- Put the tape so that the tube will be right at the slit in the piece of tape. Stick one side of the tape on the gauze and skin.

- Be sure to hold the tube straight out from the skin. Pull gently so the balloon or mushroom is snug up against the stomach wall. Wrap the other side of tape around the tube, next to the gauze.

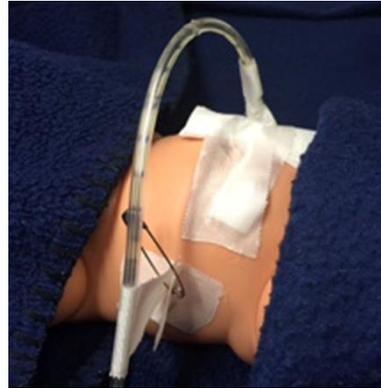


- Repeat step #9 and 10, but wrap the second split piece of tape the opposite way.



## Gauze and tape, continued

- Stabilize the tube using a tension loop. This allows the tube to be looped to the side and taped to the skin.
  - Tear two pieces of 1 inch tape about 3 inches long.
  - On one piece, fold each end over to make tabs. Fold this piece of tape around the tube, about 3 to 5 inches from the dressing.
  - On the second piece of tape, pinch the center together to make a tab and leave the ends sticky. Place this piece of your child's tummy about 3 inches from the tube site.
  - Pin the two tabs together with the safety pin. This will keep the tube straight up at site.



- A belly band or a T-shirt can help secure the tube and dressing.



**\*Note:** See *stabilization techniques* on pages 15-16 of the book [Caring for Kids with a G-tube](#).

## Tips

- It may be easiest to plan the dressing change during your child's bath time.
- To remove the old dressing, you may use adhesive tape remover or soak off tape with water. Be sure it is rinsed off and the area is dried well before replacing the dressing.
- It is best to move the tape tab placement with each dressing change. This prevents the tube from leaning the same way each time and making the hole larger. This also protects the skin around the tube.

**ALERT:** Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if your child has special health care needs not covered by this information. 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.