

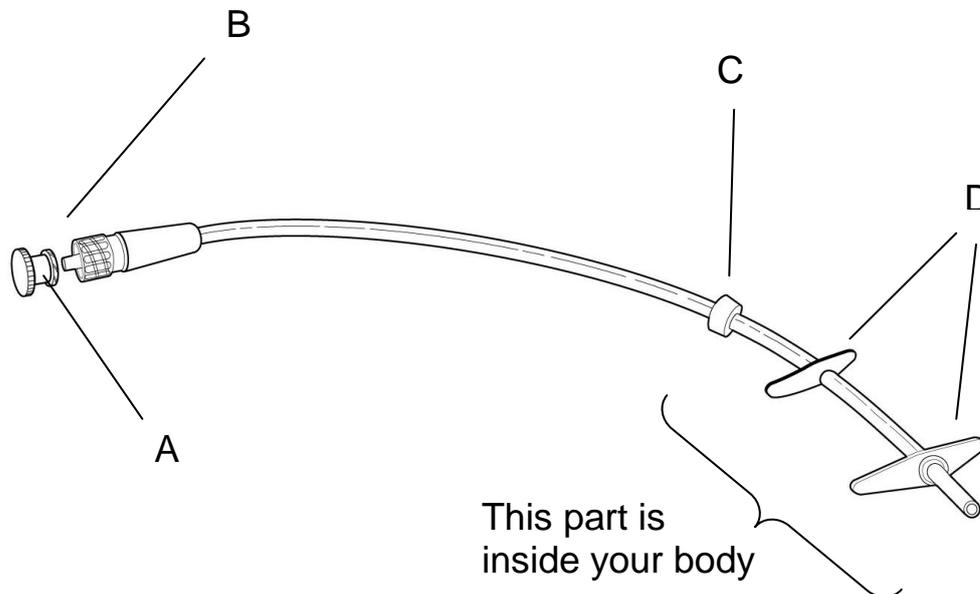
Department of Gastroenterology

Care of your Mic Jejunostomy Feeding Tube

What is the tube for?

The tube has been inserted into your small bowel by the surgeon, to provide fluid and nutrients while you are unable to take sufficient food or fluid by mouth.

It is important that you care for your tube properly to prevent infection and blockage of the tube.



- A. Cap
- B. Connection port (male luer lock)
- C. Dacron Cuff



Caring for your Jejunostomy (JEJ) tube

Do's and Don'ts

- Do clean around the site daily with cooled boiled water for two weeks following insertion of your JEJ, the surrounding skin may feel sore and be slightly swollen. It may also weep for a few days. This is normal. Take Paracetamol for soreness and clean site with saline and gauze swabs which will be given to you before you are discharged and dry thoroughly).
- Do flush the tube with 30ml cooled boiled or sterile water twice a day using a syringe.

Method:

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water
- Prepare a clean surface and open syringe and cap packaging
- Draw up 30ml of recommended water into a 60ml syringe
- Pinch your feeding tube, to prevent any back flow of fluid
- Remove cap
- Attach syringe to connection port, release tube and gently press the plunger until the syringe is empty
- Pinch the feeding tube again, remove syringe and place cap back on to connection port.

(Care of your syringe: Use one syringe per week. Clean by washing in warm soapy water, rinse and air dry. The plunger should be separated for washing)

Don'ts:

- Don't twist or pull the JEJ tube, there are surrounding sutures and retaining sutures in place around your JEJ tube please refer to your local Community Nutrition Nurse or Upper GI specialist Nurse for post suture removal care.
- Don't take a bath until your local Nutrition Nurse has reviewed the JEJ site. Showering is allowed 24hrs after insertion of your feeding tube
- Don't use talc, creams, body sprays or baby wipes as this will irritate the skin and damage the JEJ tube

Patient Information

- Don't cover with dressings unless instructed by your Community Nutrition Nurse.

Feeding through your Jejunostomy tube

Your dietitian will provide you with instructions on the type of feed and the quantity needed each day. The community nutrition nurse will provide training and instructions for administering the feed.

Do not put anything down your tube that hasn't been prescribed for this purpose.

If your fluid intake is poor, you can flush extra cool boiled water through your jejunostomy tube (contact your Dietitian for further advice)

Medications through your Jejunostomy tube

Ideally no drugs or medications should be given through your tube. However, it may be necessary for drugs to be prescribed to go through your tube. Please contact the community nutrition nurse or pharmacist for advice.

Removing the tube

The tube should not be twisted or pulled as it is secured inside your body by the Dacron cuff and fixation wings. After 3 months, your surgeon will remove the tube if it is no longer needed for feeding. This will be done under local anaesthetic

Under normal circumstances your tube will not come out. However should this happen contact your community nutrition nurse or attend A&E

Contact numbers

Community nutrition nurse: 024 7696 6094

Please leave a message if you get no answer.

Dietitian: 024 7696 6161

Homeward: 0800 093 3672 (during office hours)

08457 623603 (Out of hours advice line)

Patient Information

This leaflet was written by Coventry Dietitians at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust.

Illustrations kindly provided by Vygon (UK) Ltd (website www.vygon.com).

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, we will do our best to meet your needs. Please contact the Nutrition and Dietetic Department on 024 7696 6161.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

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