

Care after a gastrostomy tube (g-tube) is removed



What is a g-tube?

A gastrostomy tube (g-tube) is a flexible, plastic tube placed directly into the stomach through the abdomen and stomach wall. Your child had a gastrostomy tube (g-tube) to give them feedings and medicines. They may have had one of these types of g-tubes:

- AMT Mini-One
- MIC-KEY
- BARD button
- MIC
- PEG

You will need to care for the site now that the g-tube was removed.

When will the opening from the g-tube close?

The opening from the g-tube can start to close within 30 minutes after the tube is removed. Each child is different, and the time may vary. It may take up to 4 to 6 weeks for the opening to close all the way.

Your child's site may:

- Drain for the first 48 to 72 hours.
- Drain after meals for the first 48 hours.

How should I care for my child's g-tube site after it is removed?

Some care guidelines are listed below. For 4 weeks after your child's g-tube is removed:

1. Clean the area around the opening with warm water and soap each day.
 - This helps to remove drainage, dirt or sweat after play and sports activities.
 - It also helps to reduce the number of germs at the site.
2. Place up to 4 pieces of gauze to cover the opening. You may use either of these gauze sizes:
 - 2 x 2 (2 inches by 2 inches)
 - 4 x 4 (4 inches by 4 inches)
3. Clean and change the dressing anytime it becomes loose or soiled (wet or dirty).
4. You may put a clear, sterile dressing (such as Tegaderm) over the gauze. If you do not have this, you may put tape over the gauze. This helps to keep the gauze in place.
5. Talk with your child's doctor about whether you should put antibiotic ointment on the site.
6. Your child may keep doing most daily activities.
 - **Your child may not** swim in ponds or lakes until the doctor says it is OK.
 - **Your child may not** sit in hot tubs or swim in pools for at least 2 weeks.
7. Your child may take a shower or bath each day. They may take their first shower or bath 24 hours after the g-tube was removed.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.

Care after a gastrostomy tube (g-tube) is removed, continued

When should I call the doctor?

Call your child's gastroenterologist (stomach doctor) if the opening from the g-tube has not closed within:

- 4 weeks, or
- The amount of time your child's stomach doctor said it may take.

Also call if:

- There is redness, swelling or pain at the g-tube site.
- There is unusual drainage from the site after 48 to 72 hours.
- Your child has a fever [temperature of 100.4°F or higher (38°C)].
- You have any questions or concerns about how your child looks or feels.

This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.