



From NG-Tube to G-Tube

Parents and caregivers are often concerned about moving from an NG- to a G-tube. It can feel like a big step, and it seems more permanent because it requires a surgical procedure. But, understanding more about it from other parents who have been through it can help a lot.

Benefits of a G-tube

- **The G-tube is a more comfortable tube** for children once the stoma (tube site) is healed. Infants and children pull out their NG-tubes with frequency, but **it is rare for a child to repeatedly pull out the G-tube**. Moreover, for children who have allergies or sensitivities to adhesives, taping isn't usually required, and there are alternatives like protective belts and wraps if needed.
- **G-tube changes are less traumatic** for children than NG-tube changes, and they happen less frequently. Changing a G-tube can become as easy as changing an earring.
- **There is less risk of misplacement**. Once the stoma is formed it is very difficult for a G-tube to dislodge or get displaced.
- **G-tubes allow for venting the stomach to get out excess air**. This can make it more comfortable for the child and improve tolerance of tube feeds and oral eating.

What to Expect with a G-Tube

The procedure itself is pretty quick. Expect to stay in the hospital for 1 night to a few days. There will be some pain, but kids recover well and are able to resume normal activity within a week or so. It may take some time to find a feeding method and schedule that works for your child.

Myths and Facts

Myth: A G-tube is a permanent tube.

Fact: No feeding tube is permanent. Kids can just as easily wean from a G-tube as an NG-tube. In fact, G-tubes may make it more comfortable for a child to eat orally.

Myth: Getting a G-tube is giving up on your child as an oral eater.

Fact: Many kids with G-tubes actually eat some of their diet orally. In fact, sometimes kids eat more with a G-tube because they no longer feel as pressured to eat, and the G-tube is much easier to eat orally with.

For More Information

Visit our website at www.feedingtubeawareness.org for additional information and resources. Find us on Facebook for real time, live support.

What Parents Say

The G-tube has been so much better for us than the NG-tube. My son was pulling the NG-tube out constantly, so it became a problem.



I was definitely nervous at first, but for us the G-tube was easier and less stress. I was constantly worrying about her pulling the NG-tube out. It's easier to protect the G-tube. All in all, I can tell a huge difference in her personality. The G-tube doesn't bother her at all like the NG-tube did.



We just made the switch a month ago. It has been AMAZING. The NG-tube was filling me with stress and dread--it was pulled out almost daily, she wasn't getting enough calories, and she was developing an oral aversion. A month later she's gained weight, we are all much happier and less anxious, and she just recently started to let herself be spoon fed again.



FEEDING TUBE
AWARENESS FOUNDATION

Feeding Tube Awareness was founded in 2010 to support parents of children who are tube-fed, while raising positive awareness of tube feeding as a lifesaving medical intervention. We are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.