

Trouble Shooting Guide for Tube Feeding

This guide shows some problems you may have with your tube feed, and action you can take to help

<p>Problem: Feeding tube has fallen out Possible causes: Tube has been pulled out or the fixator inside the stomach has failed Solutions: The hole around the tube will start to close within 2-6 hours, so a replacement tube must be placed as soon as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have a stoma stopper, place it as soon as possible, following the instructions provided • Contact the service that normally replaces your tube immediately, or go to the unit that placed the tube, or to Accident and Emergency, immediately. Take your spare tube with you, if you have one
<p>Problem: Cannot flush the feeding tube Possible causes: Tube may be blocked Solutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure the clamp on the tube is open • Try flushing the tube using a push/pause technique • Try to pull back using an empty syringe • Roll the blocked area of tube between your fingers to try to move the blockage. • Try flushing the tube with warm water, fizzy water or soda water • For adult patients, try a solution of sodium bicarbonate, made by mixing 1 teaspoon of baking soda with 100ml water. If you can flush some of this solution into the tube, leave it in for 15 minutes and then try flushing again • Keep repeating these steps until the tube is unblocked • If the tube remains blocked, contact the unit where the tube was placed
<p>Problem: Vomiting Possible causes: Feed may be administered too fast, or other possible causes Solutions: Contact your GP, District Nurse or Dietitian</p>
<p>Problem: Excess coughing. Breathing and/ or speech sound 'wet' or 'bubbly' Possible causes: Feed may be going in to the lungs instead of stomach Solutions: Do not give any more feed, and contact your GP, District Nurse, or Dietitian</p>
<p>Problem: Temperature and/or diarrhoea Possible causes: Unwell/ infections, hot weather Solutions: Give extra water flushes. Contact your GP if problem persists or worsen</p>
<p>Problem: Urine dark in colour and/or poor output Possible causes: Urine tract infections, too little fluid Solutions: Give extra water flushes via the tube. Contact your Dietitian to adjust tube feeding plan</p>
<p>Problem: Gaining or losing excess weight Possible causes: Too much or too little feed Solutions: Contact your Dietitian for a review</p>
<p>Problem: PEG/ feeding tube site is sore, red or producing pus Possible causes: Stomach acid leakage / infection Solutions: Contact your Abbott Nurse Advisor, District Nurse or GP</p>
<p>Problem: Not enough feed, giving sets, syringes or equipment Possible causes: Delivery due Solutions: Call Abbott helpline to organise a delivery (0800 0183799)</p>