

Balloon Notes

Caring for Your Child

children'shealth^{cm}

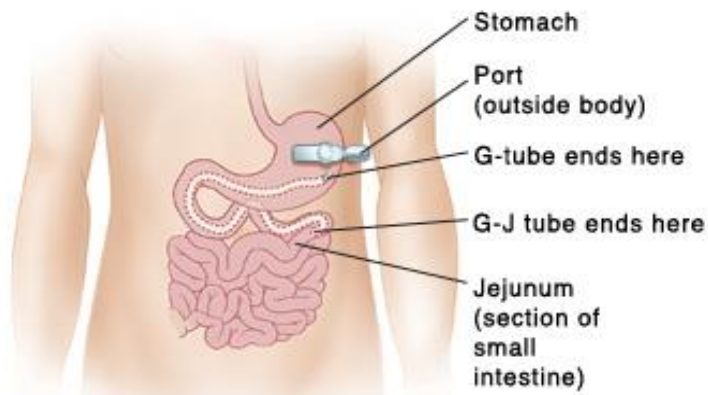


Care of the Gastro-Jejunal (G-J) Button

Your child is going home with a special feeding device called a Gastro-Jejunal Button (G-J) Button. The G-J Button is also called a Gastrojejunostomy low profile tube. It is placed for many reasons such as; poor weight gain, trauma, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and other problems. The G-J Button is usually placed in the GI Lab or Radiology through an existing gastrostomy into the part of the small intestine called the jejunum. Some people call this device a “tube within a tube.”

These instructions will give you the information you need to take care of your child at home. The nurses will show you how to care for your child and their G-J Button. Arrangements will be made for home supplies and any necessary support your child will need. Our goal at Children’s Medical Center is to help you feel as comfortable as possible when you care for your child.





Special Features

The G-J Button has 3 ports:

- The **J (Jejunal)** port on top of the Button-this is for **Formula**
- The **G (Gastric)** port on one side-this is for **medications** and **decompression**
- The **BAL (Balloon)** port-this is for checking the balloon

SKIN CARE

The G-J Button site needs to be cleaned every day with mild soap (any soap without heavy perfumes) and water. The goal is to keep “crusts” from forming around the G-Button. “Crusts” attract germs and lead to infection. When cleaning the site, check the skin for any abnormality: formula leakage, redness, drainage, bleeding, rash, bumps or swelling. **If there is any abnormality seen or you have any concern about the site, call your child’s doctor.** Some children wear a gauze pad or reusable pad around their G-J Button. The reusable pad can be home-made or purchased from a company.

The G-J Button should **NEVER** be turned like a G-Button.

FEEDING

A dietitian and your child’s doctor will plan your child’s feeding program (formula and schedule). Feeding through a G-J Button is usually done through the **J port**. Medications and decompression (also called venting), are done through the **G port**.

Information will be given to you depending on what type of feeding program your child is placed on and home equipment will be set up through a Durable Medical Equipment (DME) company.

MOUTH CARE

Every child needs their gums and any teeth cleaned twice a day, whether they eat by mouth or not. For infants use a soft gauze or cloth and clean water. For older children use a toothbrush and toothpaste, after brushing have the child rinse their mouth with clean water.

FLUSHING THE G-J BUTTON

Flushing the G-J Button is **VERY** important in order to keep it from clogging. The G-port or the J-Port can be used for flushing, depending on which port has been used.

It is best to use liquid medication whenever possible. If a tablet is used, it **MUST** be crushed and mixed with water before giving. **DO NOT** give medication that is in sprinkle form as it can clog the G-J Button.

The G-J Button should be flushed:

- Before and after feedings
- Every 6 hours during continuous feedings
- After any interruptions in the feeding regimen
- Before and after medications are given-**medications are only given through the gastric port.** Give your child their medication as ordered. Some medication is given before a feeding, some is given after a feeding, and some is given at other times.
- The amount of flush is based on your child's weight

Weight less than 20 pounds=10 ml water flush

Weight 20-75 pounds=15 ml water flush

Weight over 75 pounds=20 ml water flush

A different amount of water flush may be used in special situations or conditions.

YOUR CHILD'S G-J Button

Your child has a _____ button.

The brand of button is a _____.

The size button is a _____ FR, G port is a _____ cm and J port is a _____ cm.

CONTACTS

- For any problems with the surgery site contact your child's surgeon, the person who placed the G-J Button: **Surgery Clinic #214-456-6040**
- For any problems with the skin around the G-J Button, general G-J Button care or G-J Button function, contact your child's Advanced Practice Nurse or Wound-Ostomy nurse, (the nurse who cares for the G-J Button): **Surgery Clinic #214-456-6040 or Gastroenterology Clinic #214-456-8000**
- For well child checkups, immunizations and illnesses, contact your child's Primary Care Provider (PCP)