



Gastrostomy.

Basic knowledge



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What do I have to look at when I am home?

- At home you should look for signs of infection.
- Do gastrostomy care following the instructions given to you by your hospital.
- You will be receiving special feeding formula provided by your hospital dietary department or Doctor.
- Prevent tube blockage by rinsing with water after feeding.
- Prevent tube displacement by firm fixation.

Do not hesitate to contact your Doctor in case of any doubt.

Will the patient feel pain?

The gastrostomy insertion is done under local anesthesia , after the procedure pain killers might be given.

What are the complications?

This procedure might have early or late complications such as :

- Bleeding.(early, late)
- Peritonitis(early, late)
- Accidental removal of the tube.
- Displacement of the tube.
- Infection at the insertion site (redness, pus discharges).
- Tube obstruction(any time)

Will the tube be removed later?

According to your status the Doctor will evaluate if the tube can be removed or not .

What are the advantages ?

The advantages of this procedure are :

- Easy to be done.
- A large tube is in place making it more easy to use.
- You can restart oral feeding while the tube is still in place.

Are there any contraindications?

This procedure has absolute contraindications such as

- Bleeding problems
 - Abdominal structure abnormalities
- But also has relative contraindications such as:
- Esophageal obstruction(cancer)
 - Esophageal infection.



Any Special preparations?

Blood tests will be done and the feeding will be stopped after midnight , any anticoagulation therapy will be also stopped .

What is a Gastrostomy?

it is the introduction of a tube from the abdomen into the stomach by doing a small opening through the skin.

Why is it needed ?

A gastrostomy is done for patient who are not able to swallow food in a good way in order to provide them with adequate nutrition.

reasons for this might be :

- Having a stroke ,Dementia.
- Severe trauma to head and neck.

