



G-Tubes: Help with Problems and Actions to Take

Problem	Cause	Solution
G-tube was pulled out	Numerous	Try to replace the tube into the opening about 1-2 inches. Tape the tube to your child's stomach. Do not use the tube. Then call your care team and come to either the doctor's office or emergency room. The G-tube needs to be put in as soon as possible within 1-4 hours so the tract will not close.
Redness and irritation around the stomach, soreness and foul odor	May be caused by leakage or infection	If you are using a dressing, make sure to keep it clean and dry. A small amount of drainage around the tube is normal. Continue routine care and contact your child's doctor. A skin barrier cream may be ordered at this time. Site may be infected if your child has a fever; redness or swelling that extends past the stoma or thick yellow green drainage at the site.
Leakage at site	Problem with how G-tube is held in place. G-tube is not secure.	Call your child's doctor or nurse. You may be instructed to add more water to the balloon port at this time. May need a dressing or protective cream. Long tube – check that disc is at the mark designated for your child. Button tube – should be able to fit a dime between the tube and the skin on your child's stomach.
Skin or excess tissue appears to be growing where the tube enters skin	Some children are more prone to this than others	This is called granulation tissue. Call your child's care team to discuss treatment. It is normal for this tissue to bleed a little when bumped or irritated. This is not an emergency but is a concern and needs to be treated in a timely manner.
G-tube is clogged	Thick formulas or medication	Try to slowly push/pull warm water into the tube with a 10 ml syringe. Repeat steps every 10-15 minutes. Never put any object into the tube to unclog it. If you are unable to unclog the tube, call your child's care team.