

What is a Balloon G-Tube?

The AMT Balloon G-Tube is a gastrostomy tube that is used to help those patients that have feeding difficulties meeting their nutritional requirements. It has a small water-filled balloon which sits inside the stomach and prevents the device from falling out.

Care and Hygiene of the Balloon G-Tube

Always wash your hands before and after

- Care of the tube
- Administration of feeds or medication

Daily

- Clean and dry the skin around the stoma site once a day

Weekly

- Balloon checks weekly as per health care professional advice

Balloon Fill Volumes:

Fill Volumes		
French Size	Recommended Fill	Maximum Fill
12F	2-2.5 ml	3 ml
14F	3-4 ml	5 ml
16F	4-6 ml	8 ml
18 F	6-8 ml	10 ml
20-24F	7-10 ml	15 ml

The healthcare professional who advises you on feeding or medication administration will demonstrate this to you.

Feeding and Administration of Medications:

To prevent blockages, the G-Tube should be flushed with 5ml (or as advised by healthcare professional) of sterile or cool boiled water (or in line with trust guidance) before and after feeding or administration of medicines.

You should also flush in-between giving medications. This reduces the risk of those medications reacting with each other and potentially causing a blockage of the device. If the feed is continuous, then the G-Tube should be flushed three times a day.

Problem Solving

Blockage

If the G-tube becomes blocked, you may attempt to unblock it by trying to flush with 10ml of warm water, carbonated or soda water. (Sugary drinks should not be used e.g. pineapple or coke) Push the syringe plunger backwards and forwards. If you can see or feel the blockage, you can squeeze or massage the tube at that point. Leave the tube for 15 minutes then flush with water again. If the tube fails to unblock, please contact your healthcare professional who usually advises you on your G-Tube.

G-Tube falls out

If you have been given a replacement device and have been shown how to place it, then you should do so. If not, contact the healthcare professional who usually advises on your tube immediately.

It is important that the G-Tube is replaced as soon as possible to prevent the stoma from closing.

Problems with Stoma

Contact the healthcare professional who usually advises you on your G-Tube if your stoma:

- Emits an odour
- Persistently bleeds
- Is constantly red, or the surrounding skin is red and swollen
- Pain on feeding- device should not be used and contact your health care professional
- Has pus around it and/or oozes profusely.



