

E-130 R Gastrostomy Tube Care

Purpose

Maintain gastrostomy tube patency.

Prevent skin breakdown around site.

Applies To

Registered Nurses

Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses

Other (*Identify*): _____

Equipment/Supplies

- 30cc syringe.
- Water in small container.
- 4 x 4 gauze sponge and dressing supplies, if necessary.
- Hypoallergenic tape if necessary.
- Cotton-tipped applicators.
- Soap and warm water, basin, wash cloth, and towel.
- Disposable, non-sterile gloves.

Procedure

1. Explain the procedure to the client.
2. Assemble equipment and position the client to expose gastrostomy tube.
3. Inspect the skin at site for redness, tenderness, swelling, irritation, or drainage.
4. Wash hands. Refer to the Hand Washing procedure. Don clean gloves.
5. Gently cleanse peristomal area with soap and water using a spiral motion, beginning at the stoma site and working outward.
6. Use a cotton-tipped applicator to cleanse hard-to-reach areas.
7. Rinse and pat dry.
8. Apply dry dressing if leakage is a problem. *In most cases, avoid a dressing because it promotes skin maceration.*
9. Assess tension of gastrostomy tube:
 - a. Rotate tube in stoma, if there is no movement of the tube in and out of stoma, the tension is too tight. Decrease balloon size by 2 ml increments. Excessive tension could result in erosion of gastric mucosa.

- b. Avoid taping gastrostomy tube to abdomen, if possible. If necessary, use hypoallergenic tape.
- 10. Verify tube placement by either withdrawing gastric content or by injecting 20 ml of air into the tube while simultaneously listening over the left upper quadrant with a stethoscope.
- 11. Discard disposable items according to the Agency Waste Disposal policy.

Documentation Guidelines

Document in the clinical record:

- 1. The procedure, including assessment of site.
- 2. Any other pertinent findings.

Related Procedures

Changing a Gastrostomy Tube, Administration of Gastric Feedings.

Policy History

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