

## Feeding Tubes

### Types of G-button/G-tubes:

- Skin-level G-buttons – AMT MiniOne (Mini) and Mic-key Low Profile buttons are most common
  - Balloon and non-balloon tipped devices
- Standard G-tubes – longer external tubing, balloon tipped
- G/J button – one lumen into stomach and one into jejunum
  - Often used for feeding intolerance/aspiration

### G-button Sizes:

- Diameter (French) and length (cm)
  - Diameter should not change, length changes as patient grows and/or weight changes
- Proper G-button fit – spins easily, not too snug/loose

### G-button Changes:

- 1<sup>st</sup> change with surgery as early as 6 wks after placed
- Subsequent changes can be done at home or in clinic
  - Depending on device, typically change q3mo
  - Water in balloon should be checked monthly

### Skin Care:

- Routine skin care
  - Cleanse skin 1-2x daily with warm soapy water
  - Rotate orientation of G-button to offset pressure
  - Dress with 2x2 split gauze and tape to secure
- Skin Irritation
  - Clean site/change split gauze >bid if needed for soiling
  - Apply liquid antacid if gastric content leakage
  - Apply zinc-based barrier creams to protect skin

### **Granuloma Treatment:**

- Topical silver nitrate – applied by nurse/provider
- Topical steroids (triamcinolone 0.1% ointment) tid
- Secure button with 2x2 split gauze/tape to prevent movement

### **Troubleshooting - Leaking from center of G-button:**

- Caused by broken valve – replace G-button

### **Troubleshooting - Leaking around G-button:**

- Caused by deflated/under-inflated balloon, wrong size, not well secured, granuloma, constipation, illness
- Treat underlying cause, stabilize button, evaluate size

### **Troubleshooting - Clogged G-button:**

- Flush with warm water, bicarbonate, pancreatic enzymes
- Replace G-button

### **Troubleshooting - Dislodged G-button:**

- If balloon is intact/filled – can deflate balloon, place G-button in stoma, then reinflate balloon (if caregiver comfortable) or secure with tape and go to ED/clinic
- If balloon is broken/empty – replace G-button at home or reinsert button into stoma, tape in place, and go to ED/clinic
- If unable to replace – insert foley catheter, tape in place, and go to ED/clinic
- **G-tube stoma can close within 2-4 hrs if nothing is in it**

### **G/J Buttons:**

- DO NOT spin G/J buttons
- Must be changed in interventional radiology
- DO NOT attempt to unclog G/J button