Let's Talk About...

Gastrostomy button, placing

A gastrostomy (ga-STRAW-stom-ee) **button,** sometimes called a G-button, provides a way to give your child liquid food right to your child's stomach. This button helps your child have a normal weight by giving him a way to get extra feedings. The button lets your child move around more normally than some other methods because the button is close to your child's skin.

Sometimes, parents are nervous about their child getting a gastrostomy button, especially if it is the first time. This is a normal reaction. If you are unsure about the gastrostomy button, please call your physician's office or Primary Children's Ostomy department with your questions.

How do I place the gastrostomy button?

Steps

1 Gather all your supplies:

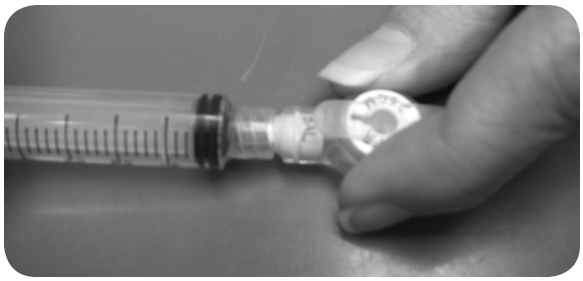
- Two glasses, one filled with tap water and the other empty
- Several washcloths or towels
- Water-based lubricant (such as K-Y® Jelly)
- Self-adhesive fabric tape (such as Mefix®)
- Gastrostomy button kit
- 2-by-2 inches drain sponge
- Barrier cream, if needed

2 Wash your hands with hot water and soap.

3 Lie your child down in a comfortable place. You may need to hold your child firmly.

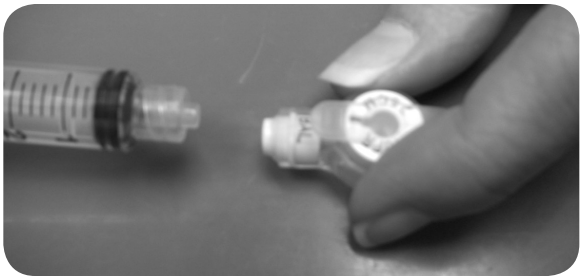
4 Stand on the same side of your child as the gastrostomy button. This is often the left side. Have your washcloth or towels nearby to help soak up any leakage as you place the button.

5 Place a 10-cc syringe into the existing balloon port. Depending on the type of gastrostomy button, it will be labeled "bal" or have a black line on it. **Make sure the syringe is plugged tightly** into the balloon port. A tight seal allows you to remove the water.

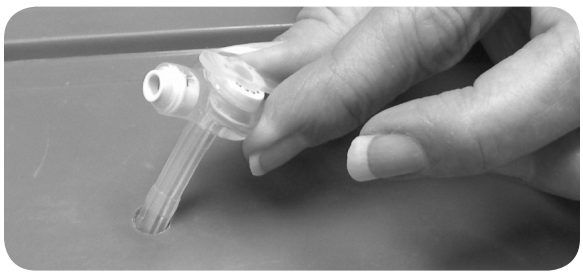


Placing a gastrostomy button

6 Remove the water from the gastrostomy button by pulling on the syringe's plunger. Discard the water into the empty cup.



7 Remove the G-button from your child. Using the fresh glass of water, pull 3 to 5 cc of fresh water into your 10-cc syringe. Five cc of fresh water is about one teaspoon.



8 Get a new G-button from the kit and place the water-based lubricant on the button.

9 Place the new button in the gastrostomy site.

10 Put 3 to 5 cc of water in the balloon port.

11 **Check for stomach contents by completing the following:**

- Connect the bolus/continuous feed tubing to the G-button. Get the 60-cc syringe from the G-button kit. Place the syringe at the end of the tubing.
- Pull back the syringe; you should get stomach contents in tubing. This means you placed the G-button in the right place.

If you do not get stomach contents back, do the following:

- Remember that if you have not fed your child for several hours and you just changed the button, you may not get return of stomach contents. Place 10 to 15 cc of water in the bolus tubing, and you should get return of stomach contents with water.
- **If you get nothing back and it is during the outpatient clinic's office hours** (8 am to 4:30 pm M-F) call your physician's office. They may have your child come to the hospital to have an x-ray to check the placement of the G-button.
- **If you get nothing back and it is not during office hours,** call your physician's office to speak with the physician or resident on call.

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