

Let's Talk About...

Gastrostomy button, replacing

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

Parents are sometimes 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 healthcare provider's office or Primary Children's Enterostomal team with your questions.

How do I place the gastrostomy button?

Steps

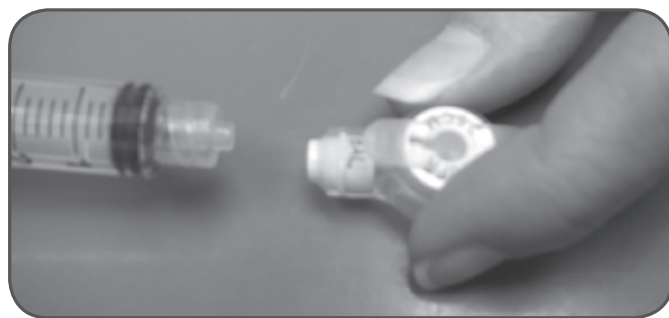
- 1 Gather all your supplies:
 - Two glasses, one filled with tap water and the other empty
 - Several washcloths or towels
 - Water-based lubricant (such as K-Y® Jelly)
 - Self-adhesive fabric tape (such as Mefix®)
 - Gastrostomy button kit
 - 2-by-2 inch drain sponge
 - Barrier cream, if needed
- 2 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 mL 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 your child's G-tube button. Using the fresh glass of water, pull 3–5 mL of fresh water into your 10 mL syringe. Five mL of fresh water is about one teaspoon.

