

Your Feeding Tube Placement

WHY AM I HAVING A FEEDING TUBE PLACED?

Your doctor has scheduled you for a feeding tube placement because you are unable to get the proper nutrition your body needs through normal eating. This may be because you are unable to swallow well or tolerate solid foods at this time. Your feeding tube can also be used to give you medicines that you need but are unable to take by mouth. By using x-rays, your feeding tube can be passed more quickly and easily into the proper location just beyond your stomach.



HOW DO I GET READY FOR MY FEEDING TUBE PLACEMENT?

There is no special preparation for this exam.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE X-RAY ROOM?

You will be asked to put on a hospital gown. You will be assisted onto a special x-ray table and positioned with your head on a pillow. The x-ray technologist or doctor will explain more about your feeding tube placement. They can answer any questions you have.

The inside of your nose will be rubbed with some gel-like numbing medicine on a Q-tip. When the inside of your nose is numb, the technologist will gently place the end of the feeding tube into your nostril and start to push it in toward the back of your throat. You will be asked to swallow when you feel it in your throat. You may be asked to tilt your chin down toward your chest. This helps pass the tube into your esophagus (swallowing tube).

You may gag for a few seconds. This should pass quickly as the tube is passed further down your swallowing tube and into your stomach. The tube will be moved in and out slightly. The x-ray staff will watch the monitor until one end of the feeding tube is in the small intestine (bowel).

When the feeding tube is in the proper place, the other end of the tube will be taped to your nose. Sometimes, the technologist will inject a small amount of x-ray dye (contrast material) into the tube before taking a final x-ray picture. This helps show that the tube is in the proper place. The contrast material should not make you uncomfortable.

WHAT DO I DO AFTER MY FEEDING TUBE PLACEMENT?

The nurses taking care of you will explain more about how your feeding tube will be used to help you. It is important that the tube stays taped well to your nose. Please let someone know if you think the tape is loose or if the tube has been pulled out of your nose a few inches.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO PLACE MY FEEDING TUBE?

A feeding tube placement takes about 15-30 minutes. Your cooperation with the staff helps the exam go more quickly and easily. Please understand that you may have to wait just a few extra minutes while your x-ray films are being checked.

The information on this Website is provided for general informational purposes only and **SHOULD NOT** be relied upon as a substitute for sound professional medical advice, evaluation or care from your physician or other qualified healthcare provider. If you have a medical problem or a health-related question, consult your physician or call Health On-Call at 336-716-2255 or 1-800-446-2255.

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