

Blocked Jejunostomy tube

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Background

Many patients have a jejunostomy tube placed to aid adequate enteral feeding. Parents/carers are taught how to care for these but may attend hospital for a number of reasons one of which may include a blocked feeding tube.

This guide forms a part of a parent competency document. Please refer to the competency document for further information.

Assessment

Parents/carers will report they are unable to put any feeds/fluids down the tube

Management

First try to flush the tube with 10 - 20mls of warm, previously boiled water.

Use the syringe plunger to apply gentle pressure and then suction to try and remove the contents of the tube.

Gently squeeze / roll blocked section of the tube between finger and thumb to help disperse the blockage.

If unsuccessful and if you have available, try to flush with soda water. Repeat the above procedures at 20 minute intervals.

When attempting to flush, do not use excessive force, as this may rupture the tube. If repeated attempts are unsuccessful the tube may need replacing

Notes

Do not use any of the following items to try and unblock the tube:

- Needles – these can put holes into the tubing or could damage the child's bowel.
- Wire – this can also put holes into the tubing or could damage the child's bowel.
- Cola – this can damage the tubing itself.