

INTRODUCTION TO TUBE FEEDING

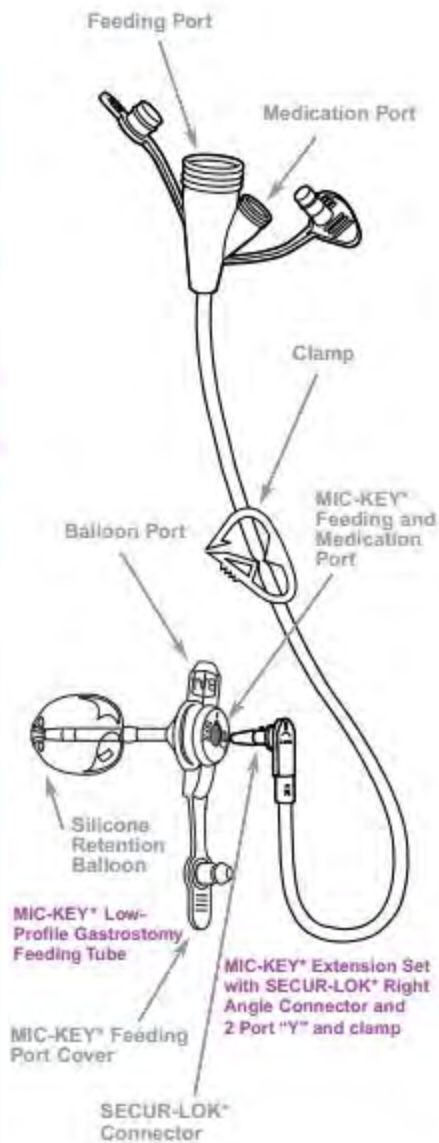
Good nutrition maintains health, growth and healing. Many different medical problems are treated by gastrostomies when the person cannot eat or eat enough to meet nutritional requirements. A gastrostomy delivers nourishment and liquid through a tube into the stomach. Formula suitable for tube feeding may be commercially prepared or may be blenderized table food prescribed by the specialist.

Adequate nutrition depends on the right type and amount of formula. Your specialist has prescribed your feeding schedule, formula, and amount of water.

ABOUT THE MIC-KEY*

A MIC-KEY* Low Profile feeding tube (MIC-KEY*) has been inserted into your stomach through the abdominal wall. There is an inflatable balloon at one end and an external base at the other. This tube allows the intake of food and water that your body requires.

Your specialist has measured you to ensure that you have the right size MIC-KEY* feeding tube. You also received care and maintenance instructions. This pamphlet will help you remember the instructions. You received instructions about your diet and medication. Follow the instructions closely and never put any other diet or medication through your tube.



THE EXTERNAL BASE

The external base holds the tube in place yet allows air circulation to the skin around and underneath it. The bottom of the base should rest just above the skin surface. A good fit is considered one-eighth inch (3 mm) above the skin, or approximately the thickness of a dime.

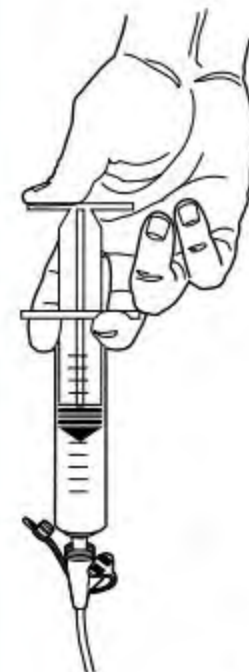


THE MIC-KEY* FEEDING PORT

Nourishment and liquids are delivered through the gastrostomy tube and into the stomach through the feeding and medication port. When nourishment or liquids are not being administered, the feeding port is capped off with the attached feeding port cover.

An anti-reflux valve is located inside and toward the top of the feeding port. This helps prevent stomach contents from leaking out of the tube. The use of the extension set will open or unlock the valve. The extension set is used for feeding and venting (also called decompression or burping).

It is important to keep the feeding port and anti-reflux valve clean. Dried formula may lodge inside the recess and hold the valve open. The best preventative measure is to flush thoroughly with enough water to clear all formula and to use cotton tipped applicators and water. Be sure that residual formula is not left to pool and dry inside the valve opening.



THE SILICONE RETENTION BALLOON

Your feeding tube has a balloon inside the stomach that has been inflated to hold the tube in place. Your specialist filled it with water when the tube was inserted. Check the balloon volume once a week.

