

Information for patients and carers

Removal of gastrostomy

Primary and balloon gastrostomy

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of three overlapping, wavy bands of blue color, transitioning from a lighter blue at the top to a darker blue at the bottom.

Introduction

There are 2 different types of gastrostomy: a 'Primary' gastrostomy known as PEG tube, and a 'Balloon' gastrostomy known as RIGG tube. This information leaflet aims to advise patients how their gastrostomy will be removed.

If you have any concerns which are not addressed below, please discuss these with the clinical nurse specialist carrying out the procedure.

Why do I need my gastrostomy removing?

The doctor/dietitian/speech therapist team looking after you have assessed you and, as you are doing well with eating, drinking and swallowing, they feel you no longer need a gastrostomy to administer fluid, food or medication and have requested the gastrostomy removal.

Who will remove the gastrostomy and where will this take place?

A member of the nutrition nursing team will remove your gastrostomy in the nutrition clinic. Following a full verbal explanation of the procedure, including risks and benefits, you will be given the opportunity to ask questions if you wish and then asked to sign a written consent form acknowledging that the procedure has been explained to you. A member of the nutrition nursing team will then remove your gastrostomy.

Preparation for the procedure

You will be asked not to eat or drink for 4 hours prior to the procedure. You will be able to take any time critical medication with a small amount of water.

How is a primary gastrostomy removed?

Primary gastrostomy is removed by a process called traction removal. The abdominal flange is gently pulled away from the stomach and the gastrostomy is then advanced into the stomach and rotated 360 degrees to make sure this moves freely. All attachments are then removed from the gastrostomy until only the tube is left. Then the nurse will place one hand on your stomach and pull the tube gently but firmly until it pops out. Once removed, a dressing is then applied over the site.

How is a balloon gastrostomy removed?

The nutrition specialist nurse will pull back the abdominal disc from the stomach and then advance and rotate the gastrostomy to make sure this moves freely. The balloon water will then be fully removed from the tube and the nurse will carefully remove your feeding tube. Once removed, a dressing will be applied over the site

After gastrostomy removal

You will be asked to remain nil by mouth for a further 4 hours following primary and balloon gastrostomy removal. The wound will be covered with a dressing. You may experience some leakage, which should improve within 24 – 48 hours. You will be supplied with dressings by the nutrition nurse specialist to take home.

How long do I keep the dressing on after removal?

As soon as the wound is dry it should be left open to the air to heal. It is personal choice if you choose to place a dressing over the site when showering.

What do I do if I have a problem after the gastrostomy removal?

We will provide a “Post gastrostomy removal guidance after care” sheet. If you experience any inflammation, swelling, temperature, shakes, shivers or pus from the gastrostomy site in the 7 days after removal please contact your GP urgently.

If you are unable to see your GP, go to the accident and emergency department for review by a member of the medical team.

We will provide you with a post gastrostomy removal guidance information leaflet documenting the date of insertion and removal for information purposes.

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact nutrition secretaries on **01772/ 523057** or email: nutrition.team@lthtr.nhs.uk

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.patient.co.uk

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www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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your symptoms of withdrawal and the opportunity to speak to a nurse or advisor from the specialist Tobacco and Alcohol Care Team.

If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**.

**Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.
This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.**

Our patient information group review our new leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or join our reading group please contact on email address:

patientexperienceandinvolve@LTHTR.nhs.uk

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