

Post-operative Gastrostomy Balloon Button

Your child had a button placed in his or her stomach to provide nutrition. This button is called a gastrostomy button, or G-button.

Date of Placement: _____ **Brand of G-button:** _____

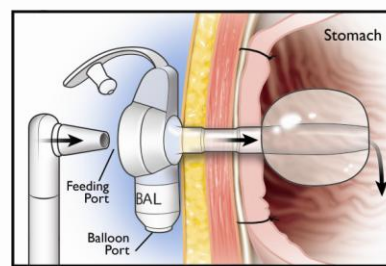
Size and Length of G-button: _____ **French (diameter) with a length of** _____ **cm**

The G-button has two places to add liquids called ports:

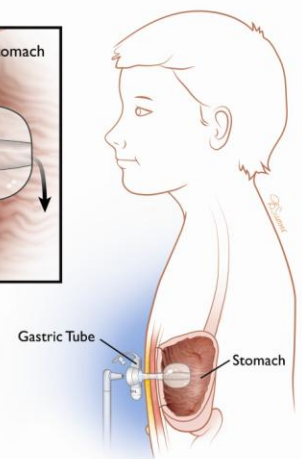
- Feeding port for giving food and medication
- Balloon port for filling up the balloon with water

GENERAL G-BUTTON SITE CARE

It takes about 6 weeks for the stomach and skin around the G-button to heal. It is important to take extra care of the button. If the G-button comes out less than 6 weeks after surgery, go immediately to the Texas Children's Hospital Emergency Center. **This is an emergency!** If you are not in Houston, go to the nearest local emergency room and call our office at 832-822-3135 to inform your surgeon.



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Cleaning the Site

- Use a cotton swab to clean the skin around the tube site daily or as needed with mild soap and water.
- Do not use heavily scented soaps or cleansers.
- Do not clean with alcohol or peroxide.
- Keep the area around the G-tube dry.
- Do not apply ointments or medications to the area unless directed by your doctor.
- Do not put dressings on the tube site unless drainage occurs. If drainage occurs, use one gauze square, split in the middle.
- **Less than 6 weeks after insertion:**
 - Give sponge baths. Do not put the G-button area under water.
- **More than 6 weeks after insertion:**
 - Bathing in a tub and swimming are allowed.
 - Make sure the G-button can spin freely in a circle.
 - Make sure the G-button is snug against the skin. It should not move loosely up or down.

Feeding

- Use **only** liquids that are the consistency of milk or thinner through the G-button.
- You may give medications through the G-button according to instructions from your doctor's office.
- Flush the G-button and tubing after each feeding with a syringe filled with 5–10 mL of water.

Granulation tissue is new tissue (appearing red or pink, “beefy,” moist and bumpy) that forms around the G-tube site as it heals. It often occurs as a response to friction from movement of the tube, pressure from the tube, or moisture in the area. Though it is often painless, it may cause some pain and bleeding. If it bleeds, treat by placing a single piece of gauze, split in the middle, around the site.

Granulation tissue is **NOT** an emergency. If you notice it, call the Surgery Clinic at 832-822-3137 to schedule an appointment with your provider. You **do not** need to bring your child to the Emergency Center.



TROUBLESHOOTING

Leaking

- Put diaper-type ointment on skin for protection if leaking occurs.
- If there is no open wound, use Vaseline® or Aquaphor. If there is an open wound, use Boudreaux's Butt Paste®, zinc oxide, or Sensicare®.
- Vent G-button using extension set 30 minutes before feeding. This helps to relieve gas build-up in stomach and prevent gagging with feeds.
- Change feeding rate: Give over a longer period of time or give smaller volumes of feedings more often but always check with the doctor who ordered the feedings.
- Call 832-822-3135 for an urgent appointment if more than one-half of feeds or medications leak. Increased leaking could be caused by an underlying illness.

Dislodgement Less Than 6 Weeks after Surgery:

- If the G-button comes out less than 6 weeks after surgery, **this is an emergency!** Go to the Texas Children's Hospital Emergency Center right away. If you are not in Houston, go to the nearest emergency room and call our office at 832-822-3135 to inform your surgeon.

Dislodgement More Than 6 Weeks after Surgery:

- Place a Foley catheter in the gastrostomy site. Inflate balloon of catheter with 5 mL of water and tape the tube to the abdomen. Call the clinic at 832-822-3137 to schedule an appointment within 24 hours. If you do not have a catheter or if you have difficulty inserting it, go to the Texas Children's Hospital Emergency Center. If you are not in Houston, go to the nearest emergency room and call our office at 832-822-3135 to inform your surgeon.

Clogs

- Flush with 10-15 mL of water (always check with your doctor regarding fluid restrictions).
- If you are not able to flush the G-button, pull back on the syringe and hold for 10 seconds, then let go of the plunger/handle of the syringe. You might hear a popping noise. Do this several times and then try flushing with water again.
- If the above actions do not work, try to flush the tube with pineapple juice unless your child is a renal or a diabetic patient. If your child is a renal patient, use cranberry juice. If your child is a diabetic patient, use sugar-free juice.
- Do not continue flushing if your child has significant pain. Go to the Texas Children's Hospital Emergency Center. If you are not in Houston, go to the nearest emergency room and call our office at 832-822-3135 to inform your surgeon.

URGENT MATTERS

- Signs of infection (redness, swelling, pus) around the G-button or the wound.
- Your child has a temperature greater than 100.5 degrees Fahrenheit with a change in how the wound looks.
- Your child continues to throw up with feeds.
- The G-button falls out fewer than 6 weeks after surgery.

Call 832-822-3135 to speak to a healthcare provider or return to the Texas Children's Hospital Emergency Center for evaluation.