

# Having an enteral feeding tube

## further questions to ask

- 1.** What are the risks associated with having the tube placed?
- 2.** How long might I have to stay in hospital for to have the tube placed?
- 3.** Will I be awake when I am having the tube placed?
- 4.** What will the actual tube placement procedure involve?
- 5.** How will I feel after having the tube placed?
- 6.** How soon will I be able to eat and drink after having the tube placed?
- 7.** What will the benefits of having a tube placed be for me?
- 8.** Can you show me the tube or some pictures of the tube I will have?
- 9.** What will be the impact on my health if I decide to have or not have a feeding tube placed?
- 10.** If I decide to have a tube placed, do I have to use it forever?
- 11.** What happens if I change my mind once the tube is in place and I no longer want to be fed via the tube?
- 12.** Will I be able to look after and feed through the tube myself or will I need help?
- 13.** Will I remain in hospital while I learn how to look after the tube and feed myself?
- 14.** If I need help to look after the enteral feeding tube at home, how will this be organised and who will arrange it?

- 15.** Will I need external care agencies or nurses to come in to my house to help me with the tube?  
If so how will I access them?
  
- 16.** How will I get my feed and feeding equipment when I am at home?
  
- 17.** Will I need to buy any special equipment?
  
- 18.** How will the feed be administered through the tube and what else can be put through the tube?
  
- 19.** Can I have my coffee/tea/soup/liquidised meals through my tube?
  
- 20.** What problems can I have with the tube or tube site (stoma site) once I am home?
  
- 21.** Who will be able to help me if I have any problems with the tube?  
What would happen at weekends/bank holidays?
  
- 22.** What will be the impact on my home life of being on a tube feed for me and my family?
  
- 23.** Will I be hungry?
  
- 24.** Do I have to stay at home when I have my feed?
  
- 25.** Will the tube affect my usual activities and will I still be able to go on holiday?
  
- 26.** How will I explain my tube to my children or family?

We would suggest that if you have any other questions you write them down before your appointment and take them with you when you meet your doctor.

Other questions:

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Further questions, please contact:

Name:

Job title:

Tel/email: