

**AVANOS**

CORFLO\* PEG

# CORFLO\*

## PERCUTANEOUS ENDOSCOPIC GASTROSTOMY



**PATIENT BOOKLET**

# CORFLO\* PEG PATIENT BOOKLET

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# YOUR CORFLO\* PEG

HOSPITAL - UNIT \_\_\_\_\_

NURSE \_\_\_\_\_

DIETICIAN \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL PRACTITIONER \_\_\_\_\_

CORFLO\* PEG SIZE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF INSERTION \_\_\_\_\_

CM MARKING AT SKIN LEVEL \_\_\_\_\_

Your Dietitian/Healthcare Professional will advise you on the feed you will have, you may want to make a note of these below.

TUBE FEEDS \_\_\_\_\_

NAME AND TYPE OF TUBE FEED \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT OF FEED EACH DAY: \_\_\_\_\_ ML

START AND STOP TIMES \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT OF EACH FEEDING \_\_\_\_\_ ML

AMOUNT OF WATER \_\_\_\_\_ ML

AMOUNT OF WATER FOR FLUSHING \_\_\_\_\_ ML BEFORE AND AFTER EVERY FEEDING

PUMP SETTING OR FLOW RATE \_\_\_\_\_

BLENDERIZED TABLE FOOD \_\_\_\_\_

Follow the doctor's instructions

FLUSH WITH \_\_\_\_\_ ML WATER BEFORE AND AFTER EVERY FEEDING

# INTRODUCTION

This booklet aims to provide you with basic information about your CORFLO<sup>®</sup> PEG Tube and to answer some commonly asked questions.

If you have any further questions after reading the booklet then contact your Nurse, Dietician (healthcare professional) or Doctor who will be pleased to help you.

There are inherent risks in all medical devices. Please refer to the product labeling for indications, cautions, warnings and contraindications.

**Please keep this booklet in a safe place for future reference.**

# WHAT IS YOUR TUBE FOR?

If you can't eat or can't eat enough for more than 4 to 6 weeks, your doctor might decide to place a Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy (PEG) tube to provide you with either all of your nutrition and fluid needs or to supplement your nutrition and fluid. The CORFLO® PEG Tube is a special feeding tube which connects the inside of your stomach to the outside to enable feeding to take place directly into your stomach.

## HOW LONG WILL THE CORFLO® PEG TUBE LAST?

Your CORFLO® PEG Tube is made from a biocompatible medical grade polyurethane. The life of a PEG tube does vary from patient to patient, the tube may last for several years if required. Your healthcare professional will advise you if it needs to be changed or removed.

## WHAT WILL I RECEIVE THROUGH MY TUBE?

The doctor will prescribe you a feeding regime, the amount of water and/or liquid medicines that need to be administered through this tube. The feed consists either of blenderized table food or ready to hang tube feeds. An adequate nutrition consists of the right type and amount of feeding and the right administration schedule.

## WHAT TO PUT DOWN YOUR CORFLO® PEG TUBE ?

- Your tube feed as prescribed by your dietician
- Water
- Medicines in liquid form only, as prescribed or recommended by your medical professional

Don't put anything down your tube other than your feed, water or medicines in liquid form. If you do, you may risk blocking the tube and if the blockage cannot be cleared, another tube may have to be put in.

# ABOUT YOUR CORFLO® PEG TUBE

The PEG tube (Fig.1) is held in place by an internal retention bumper on the inside and is held against your skin/abdomen by an external fixation device.

The three different styles of external fixation device are shown below (Fig.2)

At the end of the CORFLO® PEG is an ENFit® Feeding connector which enables you to attach your feeding set or an ENFit® syringe for feeding, flushing or administration of liquid medications.

This CORFLO® feeding connector can be easily replaced without replacing the entire tube. This is described in more detail in chapter "replacement and accidental removal".

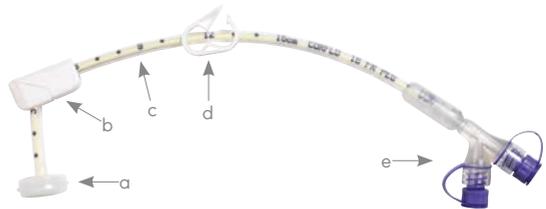


Fig. 1 CORFLO® PEG: a: internal retention bumper; b: external fixation device; c: polyurethane tubing; d: fast release clamp; e: ENFit® feeding connector



Fig. 2 External fixation devices

# DAILY CARE

- Always wash your hands with soap and water and dry thoroughly before handling the tube.



- Clean the CORFLO<sup>®</sup> PEG tube daily. Keep the skin around the tube clean and dry using:
  - mild soap and water
  - cotton-tip applicators
  - a soft, lint-free cloth
- Check carefully for any signs of the following: leakage, swelling, irritation, redness, skin breakdown, soreness or excessive (more than 10mm) movement of the tube in or out of your stomach. If you notice any of these things, inform your healthcare professional, who will be able to advise you.  
**You should not experience any pain while feeding.**

- Clean the skin around the stoma site with mild soap and warm water. You should start next to the stoma site and work outwards using circular movements. The tube and external plastic fixation device may be rotated to allow you to reach all areas of skin around the tube.
- When you have finished, gently dry the whole area thoroughly
- It's recommended to close the fast release clamp in between the feeding regimes. Change the position of the clamps on the tubing on a daily basis to prevent damage of the tubing.

- Monitor the position of the P.E.G.:  
Monitor the pH of the gastric contents and check the introduced length of the PEG tubing each time that:
  - a new pack of tube feeds is connected,
  - a bolus feed is administered,
  - medication is administered and
  - at least once during every nurse shift.

Follow the pH measurement technique as described on the instructions for use (see also page 7).

When one of the two techniques indicates that the tube has moved, if there is pain or any concern the PEG tube has been displaced you should stop any administration of feed or medication and do not use the tube until you have position confirmed by your healthcare professional.

- Oral Hygiene is especially important, if you receive all of your food via your PEG tube, as dental plaque can build up very quickly.  
Clean your teeth at least daily. Artificial saliva or a mouth wash may help if your mouth is dry.

# WEEKLY ROUTINE

- Until the stoma site is fully healed, do not immerse the site in water. Have showers not baths. Your doctor or nurse will advise you when you may have a bath again or go swimming.
- When the stoma is completely healed, usually 2 to 4 weeks after placement, the external fixation device cover can be separated from the base. Release the tube from the external retention disc, slide the disc upwards and clean the skin and the tube using soap and water. Rinse the skin thoroughly.
- Push the tube 1 to 1,5 cm into the stoma.
- Rotate the tube 360° and pull it gently back out of the stoma until you feel resistance of the internal bumper against the stomach wall.  
Dry the skin and tube thoroughly.
- Slide the external retention disc back so it sits comfortably on the skin. There should be normally 2-3 mm distance between the skin and the external retention device.

# BEFORE FEEDING BEGINS

## CHECK FOR PROPER TUBE POSITION

Follow methods recommended by your healthcare professional.

## INSERTED TUBE LENGTH:

- Read the centimeter marking on the PEG tubing at the level of the skin.
- Compare this length with the length mentioned in the beginning of this booklet. Both numbers should be equal.  
If not, stop immediately the administration of enteral feeding and contact your healthcare professional.

## PH MEASUREMENT:

- Attach an ENFit® syringe to the feeding port, make sure the fast release clamp is in the open position and pull back the end of the syringe (plunger) to aspirate stomach content (stomach contents should appear as formula or clear or yellow liquid).
- Disconnect the syringe from the PEG and measure the pH of the aspirate with pH indicator paper. The pH should be lower or equal to 5,5.
- Reinject the aspirate back into the stomach, flush the tube with 10-20ml water and begin feeding. (A lower amount of water may be needed for premature/low birth weight babies, or volume sensitive patients. Consult your medical professional.)
- In case the pH is higher than 5,5: stop immediately the tube feeds administration and contact your healthcare professional.

If you have tried both methods listed above and if you're not sure of the tube placement, DO NOT FEED using the tube. Your healthcare professional can use fluoroscopy to determine tube placement.

## MEASURE RESIDUAL STOMACH CONTENTS:

"Residual" is the amount of gastric fluid and feed left in your stomach 4 hours after feeding. Your stomach may not always empty completely, so the amount of residual varies. It may also depend on your activity or body position.

## CHECK FOR RESIDUAL IF:

- The formula backs up in the PEG tubing.
- You feel nauseated.

## TO CHECK THE RESIDUAL:

- Connect a large ENFit® syringe to the feeding port, make sure the fast release clamp is in the open position and pull the end of the syringe to aspirate or remove excess gas from the stomach.
- If liquid is also removed, carefully measure the amount of liquid in the syringe and place it in a cup. If the syringe is full and there appears to be more liquid, after the contents of the syringe are measured and emptied into a cup, reconnect the syringe and extract the remaining fluid, measure the amount and place it in a cup.

Replace the residual back into your stomach, since it contains important electrolytes and nutrients.

## TO REPLACE THE RESIDUAL:

- To replace the contents, slowly place the ENFit® syringe in the cup with the extracted stomach contents and pull the plunger to fill the syringe.
- Connect the syringe to the feeding port of the PEG tube, open the fast release clamp and slowly push the plunger to allow liquid to flow back into the stomach.

Check the residual again in 30 minutes and resume feeding if the amount is less than you obtained at the first check. If the gastric residual volume is still at a similar level, you should contact your healthcare professional for assistance.

Your medical professional may instruct you to decompress (release air from the stomach) before and/or after feeding using e.g. FARRELL.

## ADMINISTRATION OF TUBE FEEDS

- Connect the tube feeds to the feeding set.
- Purge air from feeding set by allowing tube feeds to run through it. When the feed reaches the end of the feeding set, close the roller clamp of the feeding set.
- Close the fast release clamp on the PEG tube, open the feeding port of the CORFLO<sup>®</sup> PEG and screw the feeding set onto the PEG.
- Connect your enteral feeding set to the pump.
- Set your pump rate according to your physician's instructions.
- Unclamp the fast release clamp of your PEG, start the pump and begin feeding.
- When your feeding is nearly finished, add any prescribed amount of additional water.
- After administering the tube feeds and water, disconnect your feeding set from your CORFLO<sup>®</sup> PEG.
- Flush your PEG tube with 20 ml water through the medication port using an ENFit<sup>®</sup> syringe. (A lower amount of water may be needed for premature/ low birth weight babies, or volume sensitive patients. Consult your medical professional.)

**Always follow any specific instructions which have been given to you by the healthcare professionals who are looking after you and remember these two points:**

- DON'T lie flat during your feed or for about half an hour after you have finished your feed because doing so may make you feel sick.
- NEVER vary the type or amount of feed that has been prescribed for you without first speaking to your healthcare professional for advice.

## ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

- Medication should be in liquid form when possible. If the liquid is thick, thin it with water so it doesn't clog the tube. Check with pharmacist to ensure proper dilution.
- If your medication is only available in a pill or capsule, ask your medical professional or pharmacist if it is one you can crush and mix with water. Not all pills and tablets can be taken this way.
- If crushing is an option for your medication, crush it into a fine powder and make sure it is well dispersed in the water. Most medications mix well with warm water, but some do not.
- Never mix medication with tube feeds unless your medical professional tells you to do this.
- Contact your physician prior to administering any new medication through your tube.
- Always remember to flush your tube with water before, between and after medication administration. The amount that you flush will be determined by your healthcare professional.

## FLUSHING YOUR TUBE

Flush your CORFLO<sup>®</sup> PEG tube after each feeding or administration of medication. Regular flushing of your PEG tube (every eight hours) will reduce the likelihood of blockage.

### TO FLUSH YOUR TUBE:

- Using an ENFit<sup>®</sup> syringe, draw up 20ml of water.
- Switch off the enteral feeding pump and close the roller clamp of the feeding set. Close the fast release clamp of the PEG tube, open the cap of the medication port and connect the syringe containing the water. Re-open the fast release clamp and press the end of the syringe (plunger) down gently and slowly until the syringe is empty. Close the fast release clamp, disconnect the syringe and close the cap of the medication port.

# REPLACEMENT AND ACCIDENTAL REMOVAL

## REPLACEMENT OF THE CORFLO® PEG:

- The CORFLO® PEG is designed to stay in place for a long time and under normal circumstances will not come out. Replacement and removal of the CORFLO® PEG depends upon the viability of the product and/ or should be performed under medical instruction.

## ACCIDENTAL REMOVAL OF THE CORFLO® PEG:

- However, if the PEG tube is pulled out inadvertently, you must inform your healthcare professional immediately, so that a replacement gastrostomy tube can be put in as soon as possible to keep the stoma open.
- The doctor or healthcare professional might replace the tube by a balloon gastrostomy tube or low-profile gastrostomy tube (e.g. MIC® G-tube or MIC-KEY® G-tube) of the same French size.
- Correct placement into the stomach should always be confirmed before using the tube for delivering feed, water or medications.
- Contact your healthcare professional immediately for further advice in case of accidental removal.

## REPLACEMENT OF THE CORFLO® ENFIT® FEEDING CONNECTOR:

Should the CORFLO® ENFit® Feeding connector require replacing at any time, repair kits are available and can be ordered separately through your healthcare professional.

Do not remove the CORFLO® ENFit® feeding connector yourself unless you have been shown how to by your healthcare professional.

Your healthcare professional will work as follows:



Fig. 3 CORFLO® PEG: Cut the tube to replace the feeding connector

- Close the fast release clamp on the PEG tube and disconnect the feeding set from the tube.
- Simply cut the tube approximately 1-2cm below the old adapter.
- Untwist the threaded skirt from the new adapter (Fig.4).

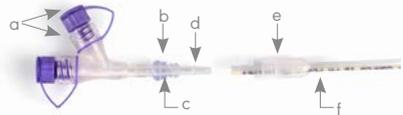


Fig. 4 CORFLO® PEG: feeding connector assembly - a: ENFit® Connectors; b: Skirt Stop; c: Tube Stop; d: Barb; e: Skirt; f: PEG Tub

- Put the PEG tube through the skirt. This skirt is vital for the correct functioning of both the PEG tube and the CORFLO® ENFit® feeding connector.
- Insert the CORFLO® feeding connector into the tube, making sure the tube goes over the barb and reaches the tube stop at the bottom of the threaded portion.
- Twist and push the skirt until the skirt stop is reached making sure it is a tight fit.

# PROBLEM SOLVING

## STOMACH CONTENTS ARE LEAKING AROUND THE STOMA SITE

- First, check for proper tube placement (see earlier)
- Measure residual stomach contents (see earlier).  
The stomach may be too full or contain gas. If the stomach contains too much residual (more than a few times) you may be getting too much formula at one time. If you are using the bolus feed, consider switching to continuous. If using a continuous feed, try decreasing the flow rate.
- If patient has lost weight or gained weight, the tube may need to be checked if the tube becomes too loose or too tight in the stoma area. A tube that doesn't fit well can cause granuloma that can become painful.

## THE FEEDING SET BECOMES DISCONNECTED

- Stop the pump.
- Estimate the amount of tube feeds lost.
- Thoroughly wipe the feeding connector of the tube with soap and water, then rinse with clear water. They must be free of oil and formula build-up.
- Check for proper tube placement (see earlier) and flush the tube 10-20ml of water.
- Resume the feeding, replacing the estimated volume lost during the disconnection.

## THE FEEDING TUBE BECOMES BLOCKED

- Attach an ENFit® syringe, filled with 10-20ml warm water, to the clogged port of the PEG tube.
- Gently pull back on, then depress the plunger to dislodge the clog.
- If the clog remains, repeat the previous step. Gentle suction alternating with syringe pressure will relieve most obstructions. If this fails, consult your medical professional.
- If your medical professional has given you different instructions for this procedure, such as e.g. the usage of CLOG ZAPPER® follow them instead of what appears here.

- To prevent blockages, flush your feeding tube:
  - before and after each feeding
  - before, after and in-between medications
  - after checking for gastric residuals
- Do not mix medication with tube feeds unless directed by a physician or pharmacist.

## STOMA AND/OR SKIN PROBLEMS

- For stoma problems, immediately call your medical professional if:
  - the stoma is bleeding,
  - you notice blood mixed with stomach content,
  - the stoma is persistently red and sore, and/or the red area is larger than 2.5 cm in diameter,
  - the stoma emits an odor,
  - the skin surrounding the stoma is swollen,
  - there is pus around the stoma,
  - you have a fever,
  - you have consistent pain.
- Be sure to gently rotate the PEG 180° during daily tube care to ensure proper air circulation (see "Weekly routine" page 6).  
Redness or soreness around the skin and stoma may be the result of an incorrectly sized tube (for example, if you have gained/lost weight) or gastric leakage. Clean and dry the area frequently.
- Skin problems such as granulation tissue may also occur. Granulation tissue is the result of the body's effort to repair the surgical incision. The tissue area may enlarge and require treatment. If it bleeds or a large amount of tissue builds up, contact your medical professional.

**IMPORTANT: if you notice that your tube fit is uncomfortable, please contact a medical professional.**

# CHILDREN'S SPECIAL CONCERNS

## CHILDREN HAVE SMALL STOMACHS

- As infants grow, they develop the capacity to hold larger amounts of tube feeds. Feedings usually begin with frequent small amounts of formula. Bolus feedings take on average 20-40 minutes. A gravity flow system or a pump regulates a slow steady flow and leaves you free to do other things. Be patient, and gradually increase the amount of formula given during the feeding.
- If your child's stomach is full, formula may leak around the stoma. Your child may also act colicky and vomit or burp up formula. If this happens, ask your medical professional if decompression or venting is appropriate.

## CHILDREN ARE GROWING

- Keep in mind that children with gastrostomies have the same basic growth and developmental needs as other children. That means their nutritional needs will be growing and checking their stoma length may be required for optimal fit.

## CHILDREN NEED TO GET ENOUGH WATER

- Because enteral feeding tube users are no different from the rest of us, hydration is important. If the weather is warm or your child has a fever, additional water may prevent dehydration. Ask your medical professional for guidelines.

## CHILDREN NEED TO EXPERIENCE FOOD

- Even though your child receives nourishment through a tube, being at the table during meals (if it's safe to do so) is still important. It gives your child the chance to experience food. Encourage your child to touch and taste, just like everyone else, even if he or she makes a mess around the high chair.

# TERMS YOU'LL NEED TO KNOW

**BOLUS FEEDING:** Large amounts of formula delivered in a short period of time through a feeding set or syringe.

**CONTINUOUS FEEDING:** Small amounts of formula administered constantly throughout the day (or night) without interruption (often during 20-24 hours).

**ENTERAL FEEDING:** Liquid nourishment delivered by a tube inserted into the stomach or intestine.

**FEEDING SET (GIVING OR PUMP SET):** Tubing that connects the feeding container or pump to the feeding tube.

**FEEDING TUBE:** Tube through which formula flows into the stomach or the intestine.

**FRENCH SIZE:** Indication of the tube's outer diameter equal to Charrière.

**GASTROINTESTINAL DECOMPRESSION:** The removal of gas or fluid from the stomach (also called "venting").

**GASTROSTOMY:** An opening (stoma) through the skin into the stomach.

**GRANULATION TISSUE:** Extra tissue formed on or around the surface of the stoma that will later form fibrous scar tissue.

**GRAVITY DRIP:** Formula or tube feeds flows into the stomach by gravity without the use of a feeding pump.

**INTERMITTENT FEEDING:** Feeding smaller amounts of formula frequently during the day or night

**PEG:** Is the name given to the method of inserting a gastrostomy tube:

P= Percutaneous - through the skin

E= Endoscopic - using an endoscope

G= Gastrostomy - tract/stoma into the stomach

**STOMA:** Opening through which a feeding tube can enter the body.

**STOMACH RESIDUAL:** Contents of the last feeding and gastric juices remaining in the stomach just before the next feeding is to be given.

# SOME CORFLO\* PEG DO'S AND DON'TS

## DO

- ✓ Check the site every day. Tell your healthcare professional at once if you notice any swelling, leakage, redness, soreness, pain or excessive movement of the tube in or out of your stomach.
- ✓ Clean and dry the stoma and surrounding tissue carefully each day.
- ✓ Check the position of the CORFLO\* PEG, using pH paper, each time a new pack of tube feeds is connected, a bolus feed is administered, medication is administered and when there is any doubt whether the tube is in the correct position.
- ✓ Flush the tube before and after medications, feeding and at least every 8 hours.
- ✓ If the CORFLO\* PEG feeding connector is damaged in any way, contact your healthcare professional so they can provide you with a replacement adapter.

## DON'T

- ✗ Don't put solids down your tube.
- ✗ Don't cut the PEG tube or attempt to remove the feeding connector yourself. If you do, your tube could come out inadvertently.
- ✗ Don't re-position the tube yourself, unless your healthcare professional has shown you how to.
- ✗ Don't have a bath or swim until your healthcare professional lets you know it is okay to do so.
- ✗ Don't remove the external fixation device or bumper bar from the PEG tube. If the external fixation device is uncomfortable, tell your healthcare professional who will adjust it for you.

## IMPORTANT NOTE

The enclosed guidelines are only recommendations for an appropriate care of the CORFLO\* PEG. These should only be followed when no instructions are available from the placing doctor or the local hospital. The Avanos guidelines can under no circumstances overrule the local medical or nursing guidelines. The end responsibility for the treatment should remain with the placing doctor.

There are inherent risks in all medical devices, please refer to the product labeling for **Indications, Cautions, Warnings and Contraindications.**

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For more information, please send an email to [customerservice.uk.ie@avanos.com](mailto:customerservice.uk.ie@avanos.com)