

Speech and Language Therapy Department Having a RIG tube

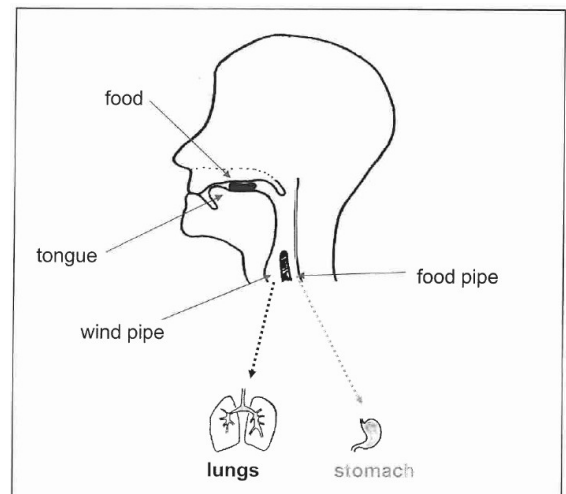
What is a RIG tube?

- A **RIG** is a **feeding tube** that is placed into your **stomach**.
- It is a way of getting **food, fluids** and **medicines** into your **stomach**.



Why do I need a feeding tube?

- Due to problems with your **swallowing** there is a risk of food and drink going the **wrong way** and in to your lungs.
- If **food and drink** goes in to your **lungs** it may cause a **chest infection** and make you very **poorly**.
- Or you may not be **eating and drinking enough**.



What are the benefits?

- **Safer feeding.**
- More **comfortable**.
- **Less noticeable.**
- Less **likely to come out** than a tube in your nose.
- Helps maintain your **weight**.



What are the risks?

It is **unlikely** that things will go wrong.

Things that could go wrong are:

- Infection.
- Bleeding.
- Breathing problems.
- Bowel problems.



Before you have the feeding tube

- You will see a doctor or nurse to make sure you are **well enough** for the tube.
- You will have a **blood test**.
- They will **look** at your **stomach**.



On the day of the procedure

- **Do not eat and drink** by mouth for **6 hours before**.
- You **can** have **water** up to **2 hours** before if your swallow is safe.
- Your **doctor** will tell you which **medications you can take**.
- If you are being **fed by tube** this will be **stopped 6 hours before**.
- You **can** have **water** through your tube up to **2 hours** before.



What happens when you have a RIG tube

- It takes about **30 minutes**.
- You will have the feeding tube put in at the **hospital**.
- You will have a **local anaesthetic** and **sedative**
- You will be **awake but sleepy**.
- A doctor puts a **tube** through your nose in to your **stomach**.
- **Air** will be put in to your **stomach** using the tube.
- A **small cut** is made in the **skin** in your **stomach**.
- The **RIG tube** is put in using **x-ray**.
- The **tube in your nose is taken out**.
- The **RIG tube is stitched in place**.



30 minutes

Will it hurt?

You may have **pain** in your **stomach** after the tube is put in. You will be given **painkillers** to help.



What happens next

- **First** you will have **water** through your tube.
- **Liquid feed** will then be started.
- The **dietitian** will **talk** to you about your **feed**.
- The **dietitian** will **teach** you how to **use the tube**.
- If you have **stitches** they will be **removed after 2 weeks**.



Will I be able to eat and drink?

- The **Speech and Language Therapist** will **test your swallow**



Your swallow is **safe to eat and drink** to



Your swallow is **unsafe** eat and drink

Can I go home with the tube?

- You may be able to go home with your tube.
- You may need **someone to help you**.



Will the tube be removed?

- The tube can be **removed** if your **swallowing improves**.
- If you are **eating and drinking well**.





Questions?

Speak to your **Speech and Language Therapist** or call on **01603 287117**.

Speak to your **Dietitian** or call on **01603 287011**.

Speak to your **Nutrition Nurse** on **01603 287159**.

