

STATEMENT

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Removal of PEG

Background

In clinical practice it often occurs that the most convenient way for the patient is to cut the PEG at skin level and let the inner retention plate pass through the intestine spontaneously. This avoids an additional endoscopy for the patient.

Literature research

Pearce et al. describe a PEG tube removal (mainly with Freka® PEG FR 9) by the natural way as a safe method with a complication rate of 2.7%. His patients were routinely followed up to ensure tubes are passing through and to pick up any potential complication.

However, many complications with this method have also been described in the literature (Bilijam 2000). Especially children developed significant complications, which even might cause death (Yaseen 1996, Pietersen-Oberndorff 1999, Mollitt 1998).

Conclusion

The removal of the PEG by the natural way might be considered for adult patients without previous abdominal surgery, anatomical abnormalities of the gastrointestinal tract or gastrointestinal disorders. But because of the complication rate of 2.7 % which is avoidable with endoscopic removal we do not consider this method as safe. Difficulties might arise even in previously not operated patients in case of an unknown buried bumper syndrome.

Therefore, Fresenius Kabi, as manufacturer, do not recommend this way of PEG removal. The responsibility lies completely with the physician.

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