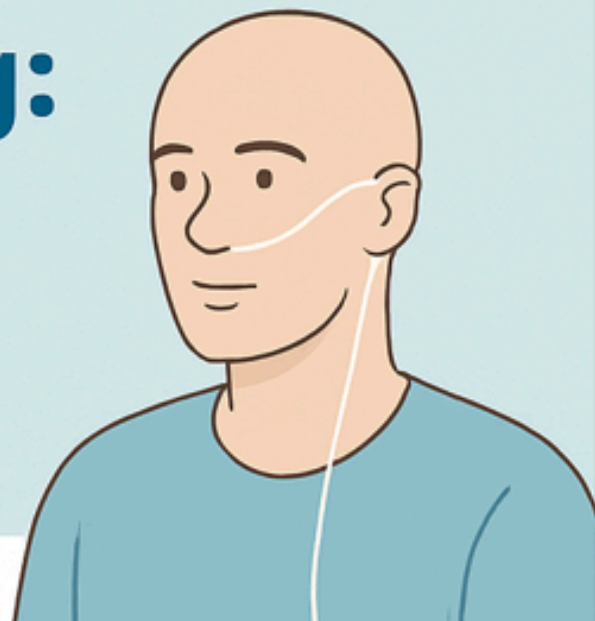


Enteral Feeding: Information for Patients

Edinburgh Cancer Centre



Some people receiving cancer treatment for head and neck cancer may need a feeding tube.

Why Might I Need A Feeding Tube?

A feeding tube can help you:

- Maintain nutrition during and post treatment
- Support healing after surgery
- Prevent weight loss and treatment delays

Feeding Methods

- **Pump Feeding:** Liquid nutrition goes into your tube slowly using a pump. (Training through Nutricia)
- **Bolus Feeding:** Feeds are given in larger amounts at set times. (Training through Nutricia/Dietetics)
- Some people do a combination of both
- Eating and drinking is encouraged if able

How Long Will I Need the Tube?

Timings vary depending on:

- Treatment type
- Recovery of swallow
- Pain and side effects
- Results of post Treatment Scans

Useful Links

RIG – Getting a Feeding Tube Inserted: <https://vimeo.com/452512813>

RIG – Living with a Feeding Tube: <https://vimeo.com/452513456>

These videos were created for and with patients in NHS Lothian.

Types of Feeding Tubes

Nasogastric (NG) Tube:

- A thin tube passed through your nostril into your stomach.
- Usually short term.
- Helpful if a long-term tube (RIG/PEG) is not suitable.

Radiologically Inserted Gastrostomy (RIG):

- A feeding tube placed directly into the stomach through the abdominal wall using X-ray guidance.
- Long term if required for 3–6 months.
- Used for Lothian, Fife and Borders patients.

Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy (PEG)

- Also placed directly into your stomach.
- Inserted using X-ray guidance.
- Suitable for long-term feeding