

Gastrostomy Tube Allowing Optimized Stomach Suctioning

Researchers at the University of South Florida have developed modifications for the tubes used in Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy (PEG) procedures. These alterations allow for superior continuous suction of stomach matter without interruption by contact with the stomach wall.

PEG tubes are used to allow for feeding the stomach through the abdominal wall when a patient cannot eat on their own. In such patients there is frequently a need to drain the stomach contents due to poor bowel function. Current PEG tubes are poorly suited for draining, as they behave like a suction cup when in contact with the opposite stomach wall, creating a seal and preventing further drainage. Overcoming this requires the patient be placed on intermittent suction and have frequent flushing and tube maintenance by clinical staff. There is a need for an easier and more convenient method of draining a patient's stomach.

Our inventors have developed novel geometric modifications to the PEG tube that improves suctioning and helps prevent occlusion. Instead of the current bell shaped end which readily seals against the stomach, these modifications include small holes or gaps in the cup, a modified spherical cup, or arches that span from one side of the bell to the other in order to prevent occlusion. These adaptations improve patient care by improving the pumping capacity and allowing for longer periods of uninterrupted drainage. Additionally, these modifications allow for decreased clogging of the tube by large stomach matter, reducing the need for costly labor hours required for manual examination and tube clearing by medical staff. These enhancements result in a tube which can be used effectively for both feeding and stomach evacuation in a reliable fashion with reduced need for intervention and manipulation. This makes the process easier and more convenient to the caretaker.

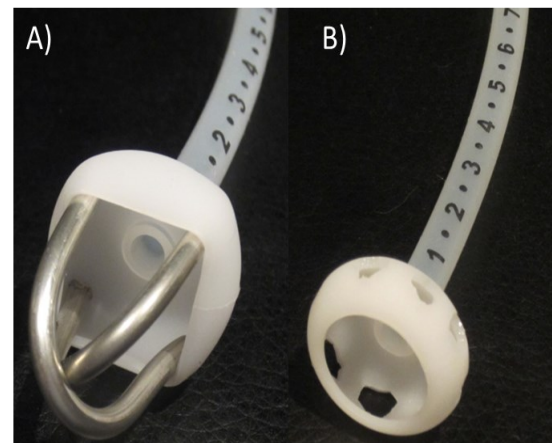
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ADVANTAGES:

- **Continuous stomach suction without occlusion of the tube**
- **Reduces the need to monitor the tube frequently**
- **Still allows the use of the tube for feeding procedures**

Allows Uninterrupted Stomach Drainage



The Modifications on the End of the Tube will Improve Suction When Stomach Emptying Procedures are Performed