TITLE: Gastrostomy Feeding Buttons for Direct Gastric Feeding: Clinical Evidence and Guidelines for Use

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RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. Is there clinical evidence to support when gastrostomy feeding buttons and associated extension tubes should be replaced in patients requiring direct gastric feeding?

2. What are the guidelines for replacement frequency and general care of gastrostomy feeding buttons and associated extension tubes in patients requiring direct gastric feeding?

METHODS:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 3, 2008), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international health technology agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results include articles published between 2003 and September 2008, and are limited to English language publications only. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Internet links are provided, where available.

RESULTS:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, observational studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

Two observational studies and one guideline for replacement frequency and general care of gastrostomy feeding buttons and associated extension tubes in patients requiring direct gastric feeding were identified. No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-

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analyses, or randomized controlled trials were identified from the literature search results. Additional articles of interest may be found in the Appendix.

**Health technology assessments**
No literature identified

**Systematic reviews and meta-analyses**
No literature identified

**Randomized controlled trials**
No literature identified

**Observational studies**


**Guidelines and recommendations**


*Note: see General Care of a Mini Button, page 2*

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Additional references