Title: Medication Administration via Enteral Feeding Tubes: Evidence and Guidelines

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Research question:

1. What is the evidence that more than one medication can be administered at a time through an enteral feeding tube?

2. What are the guidelines for administration of medications through an enteral feeding tube?

Methods:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 2, 2008), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international HTA agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results include articles published between 2003 and June 2008, and are limited to English language publications only. No filters were applied for the search concerning administration of more than one medication through an enteral feeding tube. A guideline filter was applied to the search regarding the guidelines for administration of medications through an enteral feeding tube. 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.

One systematic review, two observational studies and two guidelines were identified from the literature search results. No health technology assessments or randomized controlled trials were identified.

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Health technology assessments
No literature identified

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses

Randomized controlled trials
No literature identified

Observational studies


Guidelines and recommendations
   *Note: see 16.0 Administering drugs via enteral feeding tubes, page 18*

   *Note: see 5.3.5. Flushing feeding tubes, page 37*

Prepared by:
Michelle Clark, BSc, Research Assistant
Carolyn Spry, MLIS, Information Specialist
Health Technology Inquiry Service
Email: [htis@cadth.ca](mailto:htis@cadth.ca)
Tel: 1-866-898-8439
Appendix – Further information:

Review articles


Additional references


