6.2 Care of Naso Gastric Feeding Tube

Objectives

By the end of this section you should know how to:

- Prepare the patient;
- Collect and prepare the equipment;
- Care for a naso gastric feeding tube.

Related information

Before a feed is commenced ALWAYS check that the naso gastric tube is still in the patient’s stomach.

Equipment

- Sterile water
- PH indicator strip

Procedure

- Perform hand hygiene;
- Collect and prepare the equipment;
- Explain procedure to the patient and gain consent and co-operation;
- Note the position of the tube where it comes out of the patient’s nose. Flocare tubes have graduated marks from 20-100 cm. Alternatively, a small piece of tape can be struck around the tube as a marker guide, If a mark is further out than usual, the tube may no longer be in the correct position;
- Aspirate some gastric content with a 50 ml syringe and test with PH indicator strip. PH indicator strip will record 0-5 in the presence of gastric juices;
- Flush the naso gastric tube before and after feeds with 30-50mls of sterile water and likewise if giving medicines via this route. Medicines must be in liquid form. If several medicines are to go down the tube, flush in between each with 20 mls sterile water;
- Elevate head of bed by at least 30º during and for one hour after feed, to prevent aspiration;
- If the naso gastric tube becomes blocked, try flushing with 30-50ml of warm water. If this fails, a new tube may be required;
- Always ensure naso-gastric tube is well secured;
- Always ensure patient’s nostrils are kept clean and well lubricated;
- Perform hand hygiene;
- Document the procedure, monitor after-effects and report abnormal findings immediately.

REFERENCES:

REFERENCES: