

Troubleshooting Feeding Tube Clogs

A Pound of Prevention...

- Always Flush the tube immediately before and after feeding with a least 30 ml of water.
- Never mix your medicine with tube feeding unless otherwise advised to do so by your healthcare practitioner.
- Request elixirs or suspensions if available but be aware that some liquid preparations can cause diarrhea due to sorbitol content.
- Crush medicine to a fine powder and disperse in warm water. Always check with your pharmacist first to be sure it is okay to crush your particular medicines. Crush with mortar and pestle or other pull crushing device.
- Never crush an enteric-coated, time-released, or sustained-release tablet or capsule.
- Never mix fiber supplement with tube feeding formula unless otherwise instructed.
- Flush tube with at least 30 ml water before AND after fiber supplement administration if used.

OOPS! Your Tube is Clogged!

- Warm water is usually effective.
 - 60 ml syringes filled with lukewarm water.
 - Do not try to force the water in, gently and firmly push and pull the plungers back and forth.
 - Clamp the tube for a few minutes allowing the water to “soak”, repeat if necessary.
- Viokase has been shown to be effective in unclogging tubes.
 - 1 crushed tablet of Viokase or ¼ tsp Viokase powder. (you will need a prescription from your doctor for this)
 - 5 ml lukewarm water.

*We highly advise against using anything else such as carbonated beverages or meat tenderizer to unclog your tube. The mechanisms above have been shown to be much more effective.