

Question:

How nurses who are unfamiliar with enteral tubes or new to administering enteral medication should safely administer enteral medications without causing feeding tube obstruction or volume overload during enteral medications administration?

Summary:

Giving medication or providing diet through an enteral tube is recommended to patients who are critically ill and unable to consume an adequate diet or safe oral diet. There are several routes of enteral tubes; each feeding tubes are different, and physicians decide which enteral routes to use based on the patient's overall conditions. Administering drugs and food via enteral tubes require special skills, and nurses must ensure that they do it safely to prevent harmful consequences. If drugs are not given appropriately, it could result in "occlusion, diarrhea, aspiration pneumonia, drug inefficiency, drug side effects, and even mortality", (Hossaini Alhashemi et al., 2019). It is crucial that nurses know how to safely administer eternally to prevent unwanted complications. "Nurses' knowledge related to enteral medication administration is essential to achieve optimal patient outcomes" (Chen et al., 2018). However, studies and surveys reported that nurses' knowledge of enteral tube medication administration is inadequate, and nurses are not doing what needs to be done during enteral medication administration. Some are not flushing tubes before or between medications, administering drugs together instead of separately, not diluting liquid medicines, and cursing modified-release dosage forms. "Crushing many drugs such as enteric coated tablets, controlled-release tablets, and mutagenic and teratogenic drugs can lead to a decrease in drugs effects, irritation of gastric mucosa, and harm to the nurse" (Mojtaba Sohrevardi et al., 2017). "Although administration of medication via enteral tube is specifically a nursing responsibility, they had limited baseline knowledge about pharmaceutical from, drug dosage, or interaction." (Hossaini Alhashemi et al., 2019). Nurses have little knowledge of drug interaction; most of the time, they are unaware of how mixing drugs can affect the patient and enteral tubes. To prevent further medication errors through a feeding tube, "Clinical pharmacists should collaborate with physicians and nurses in regular mandatory teaching sessions, continuous ward visits, and institutional policy changes to ensure that best practice is followed" (Hossaini Alhashemi et al., 2019).

Conclusion:

Correct delivery of medication administration via enteral tubes is essential. Enteral tubes drugs or diet administration is complex, "Several skills are involved in giving enteral medication, including preparing the medications, flushing the tube, verifying tube position, and assessing for potential complications" (Chen et al., 2018). Nurses should often collaborate with pharmacists and physicians to ensure they practice safe enteral drugs or diet administration. When nurses practice safe enteral drug or diet administration, the risk of harmful complications is low.

Work Cited:**Primary Article**

Hossaini Alhashemi, S., Ghorbani, R., & Vazin, A. (2019). *Improving knowledge, attitudes, and practice of nurses in medication administration through enteral feeding tubes by clinical pharmacists: A case-control study*. *Advances in medical education and practice*. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6628606/>

Secondary Article

Chen, C., Lee, H., Fang, Y., & Kao, A. (2018). Improving Nurse Skill of Medication Administration via Enteral Feeding Tube. *Nursing & Primary Care*, 2(5), 1-5. <https://doi.org/10.33425/2639-9474.1078>

Tertiary Article

Mojtaba Sohrevardi, S., Hossein Jarahzadeh, M., Mirzaei, E., Mirjalili, M., Dehghani Tafti, A., & Heydari, B. (2017). *Medication Errors in Patients with Enteral Feeding Tubes in the Intensive Care Unit*. *Journal of Research in Pharmacy Practice*. Retrieved from <https://www.jrpp.net/article.asp?issn=2319-9644;year=2017;volume=6;issue=2;spage=100;epage=105;aulast=Sohrevardi>