



## *Granulation Tissue at the PEG/PEJ Stoma*

### **What is granulation tissue?**

Granulation tissue is raised, sometimes painful, red tissue that can develop at the edges of the PEG (percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy) or PEJ (percutaneous endoscopic jejunostomy) stoma. The stoma is the opening where the tube enters your skin to go into the stomach (gastric) or intestine (jejunum).

Granulation tissue can bleed. Also, granulation tissue may produce a mucous drainage.

### **Possible causes of granulation tissue**

Ongoing friction between the tube and the skin is one factor that may cause granulation tissue to develop. A tube that doesn't fit well or a tube that is not stable – one that rocks back and forth in the stoma – can cause the friction. Ongoing use of hydrogen peroxide, creams or lotions also may contribute to the development of granulation tissue.

### **How can I prevent granulation tissue?**

To prevent the development of granulation tissue:

- It is important that your tube be stable, not too loose or too tight.
- Make sure the disc on the outside sits gently one-quarter inch off the skin. It should not leave any marks or indentations on the skin.

If you have a skin level tube, changes in your weight may make it fit improperly.

### **How do I take care of the skin around the stoma?**

Another factor that may contribute to the development of granulation tissue is improper skin care. Leave the stoma open to air. Clean it only with a soft clean cloth and soap and water.

## How is granulation tissue treated?

It may be hard to get rid of granulation tissue. It is very important to meet with your health care provider. Your provider can evaluate the stoma and make a plan to treat and prevent granulation tissue.

Possible treatments may include:

- The application of silver nitrate to help shrink the tissue. The silver nitrate is applied in your provider's office. After this treatment, the granulation tissue may look gray. After some time, the tissue may fall off. You may need more than one treatment.
- If silver nitrate does not work, in rare cases, cautery or surgery may be used to remove the granulation tissue.
- Sometimes, a topical steroid cream may be recommended. However, this is not the preferred treatment.

## Allergic reactions

Allergic reactions include a reddened area on the part of the skin where you are using a product. The area may itch, burn or sting. If you think you are allergic to a product, stop using it.

Ask for a different product you can use by calling: \_\_\_\_\_

*This material is for your education and information only. This content does not replace medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. New medical research may change this information. If you have questions about a medical condition, always talk with your health care provider.*