Naso-jejunal tube insertion - interface between radiology and endoscopy

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A survey was performed to identify the practice associated with endoscopic placement of naso-jejunal (NJ) tubes. We had a total of 236 responses, of which 228 responded to the frequency of requesting X-ray after placing NJ tubes. The responses suggested that there was a strong variation in the practice. The practice was independent on clinicians’ area of interest, hospital setting or experience in endoscopy. Currently there are no accepted guidelines on this. Hence, we advise hospitals to have robust local guidelines until there is internationally agreed consensus.

Key words: Decision making; X-rays; Naso-jejunal tube; Nutrition; Documentation

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Core tip: Endoscopy and interventional radiology complement each other given the advances in both fields. Enteral feeding has been found to be useful in patients with poor oral intake. This may be achieved by placing jejunal tubes either endoscopically or by radiological guidance without the need for surgery. In order to ascertain if clinicians recommend radiological confirmation after placing jejunal tube endoscopically, we did a survey. We had 236 responses; wherein we found that there was strong variation in the practice. Clinical area of interest, years of experience in endoscopy and type of clinical setting made no significant change to the practice.
Table 1 Results of the survey

| Analysis (χ² test) | I always ask for X-ray confirmation | I sometimes ask for X-ray confirmation | I ask for X-ray confirmation on the rare occasion | I never ask for X-ray confirmation | All responders to the frequency of Requesting X-rays (n = 228) |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Requesting X-rays | 26.80%                              | 22.80%                                 | 21.00%                                        | 29.40%                           | 25.00%                                           |
| > 10 yr endoscopy experience (n = 152) | 29.60%                              | 25.70%                                 | 19.70%                                        | 37.60%                           | 25.00%                                           |
| 6-10 yr            | 26.10%                              | 19.50%                                 | 17.40%                                        | 37.00%                           | 25.00%                                           |
| Endoscopy experience (n = 46)           | 15.80%                              | 5.30%                                  | 26.30%                                        | 52.60%                           | 25.00%                                           |
| 3-5 yr endoscopy experience (n = 19)    | 12.50%                              | 25.00%                                 | 50.00%                                        | 12.50%                           | 32.00%                                           |
| 0-2 yr endoscopy experience (n = 8)     | 28.00%                              | 20.00%                                 | 20.00%                                        | 22.00%                           | 32.00%                                           |
| Gastroenterologist with interest in a Speciality other than nutrition (n = 100) | 27.20%                              | 29.60%                                 | 21.00%                                        | 24.00%                           | 22.00%                                           |
| Gastroenterologist with interest (n = 81) | 14.30%                              | 17.90%                                 | 21.40%                                        | 46.40%                           | 22.00%                                           |
| Practicing at academic hospitals (n = 82) | 22.00%                              | 15.90%                                 | 28.00%                                        | 34.10%                           | 22.00%                                           |
| Practicing at general hospitals (n = 140) | 28.10%                              | 27.30%                                 | 17.30%                                        | 27.30%                           | 27.30%                                           |
Until then we advise clinicians to follow local guidelines and to use a multi-disciplinary approach in decision making.

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Figure 1 Endoscopic image showing a jejunal tube.