

MND and Gastrostomy: When should a gastrostomy tube be placed?



There is no set time to have a gastrostomy feeding tube. The rate that swallowing or eating is affected is different between individuals with MND.

If you decide to have a gastrostomy tube, research suggests it should be placed early for some of the reasons below:

Lung Function

As MND progresses, individuals can experience breathing problems. This can make the gastrostomy procedure more difficult and can increase the risk of complications. A gastrostomy is recommended when lung function is strong (above 50% function).



Swallowing Ability

Gastrostomy feeding should be considered before swallowing of foods and fluids becomes unsafe and the risk of choking or chest infections is high.



Weight Loss

Gastrostomy tube insertion before significant weight loss occurs (5-10% of normal weight is lost) is most beneficial because there are likely to be less complications.

