



If you decide to <u>have</u> a Gastrostomy feeding tube:

Potential Pros	Potential Cons
Reduce risk of choking and aspiration	Requires medical procedure under anaesthesia and a short hospital stay
Focus on eating food for enjoyment	Small risk of complications such infection or bleeding
Maintain or regain weight	
Useful way to take medications	Some post-operative pain and discomfort
Increase strength and energy levels	Change of daily routine to include feeding times and tube care
Improve hydration	May require additional help to care for the tube
Help reduce constipation	
	Changes the way your body looks
Reduce time preparing and eating meals	
Reduce stress or anxiety if unable to eat	

If you decide to not to have a Gastrostomy feeding tube:

Potential Pros

Avoids a hospital admission and anaesthetic

Avoids potential complications related to the procedure

Avoids changing the way your body looks

Requests for end of life decisions are respected as per individual's wishes

Potential Cons

Increase risk of chest infections and pneumonia

May be unable to eat and drink enough to meet nutritional needs

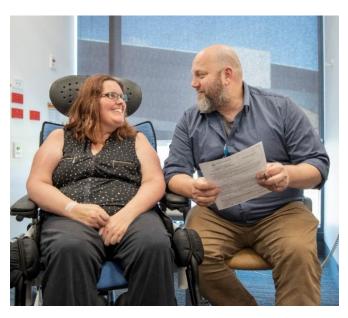
May be unable to take medications

Increase risk of weight loss and fatigue

Increase risk of dehydration

If delayed, you may not be well enough to have a feeding tube

It is important to discuss the pros and cons of having or not having a gastrostomy feeding tube with your health care team.



For more information

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