

Gastrostomy Tube Feeding in MND: Making the Decision



If you decide to have a Gastrostomy feeding tube:

Potential Pros

- Reduce risk of choking and aspiration
- Focus on eating food for enjoyment
- Maintain or regain weight
- Useful way to take medications
- Increase strength and energy levels
- Improve hydration
- Help reduce constipation
- Reduce time preparing and eating meals
- Reduce stress or anxiety if unable to eat

Potential Cons

- Requires medical procedure under anaesthesia and a short hospital stay
- Small risk of complications such as infection or bleeding
- Some post-operative pain and discomfort
- Change of daily routine to include feeding times and tube care
- May require additional help to care for the tube
- Changes the way your body looks

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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