

Questions to Ask About PEG Feeding Tubes

ALS causes progressive weakness in muscles, including those responsible for swallowing. Since it's important to stay hydrated and continue consuming nutritious foods, your care team may recommend getting a feeding tube. The following are a few questions to ask a gastroenterologist (GI specialist) or other qualified health care provider on your care team. These questions may be answered over a series of visits.

There is often a lot of information to absorb during a clinic visit. Take a family member or friend with you who can take notes, and ask your care team whether you can record your visit so you can listen to their answers and advice again at a later time.

Provider Name:

Provider Contact Information:

1. What is a PEG tube and will I need one? If yes, when?

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2. What kind of tube would I need (button vs. standard)?

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3. What will it look like? Please show me a sample and let me handle it.

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4. Can I switch the type of tube after the procedure if I decide I would like the other type (standard type switched to button type or vice versa)?

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5. Where exactly will placement be on my body?

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6. How long will the procedure take? Will I need to stay in the hospital overnight?

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7. When can I take a shower after surgery is complete?

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8. Where do I order supplies? Will they be delivered to my home? What are the supplies I'll be getting?

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9. Will a dietician calculate my water and nutritional needs and give you this information?
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10. How will I administer the feedings? Is it with a pump, or gravity or bolus? Do I have the option to change the method? What are the advantages/disadvantages of each method?
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11. Who will show me how to use it and who can I call if I have trouble using it?
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12. When can I eat solids or drink liquids?
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13. Do I need to twist/rotate the tube?
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14. How should I clean it?
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15. What are the risks? Are infections possible?
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Write down other questions you have:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

I AM ALS does not provide medical advice. Please discuss questions and decisions related to your diagnosis and medical care with your health care team.