

# Medical Safety Information

Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency

**pmda** No. 43 March 2014

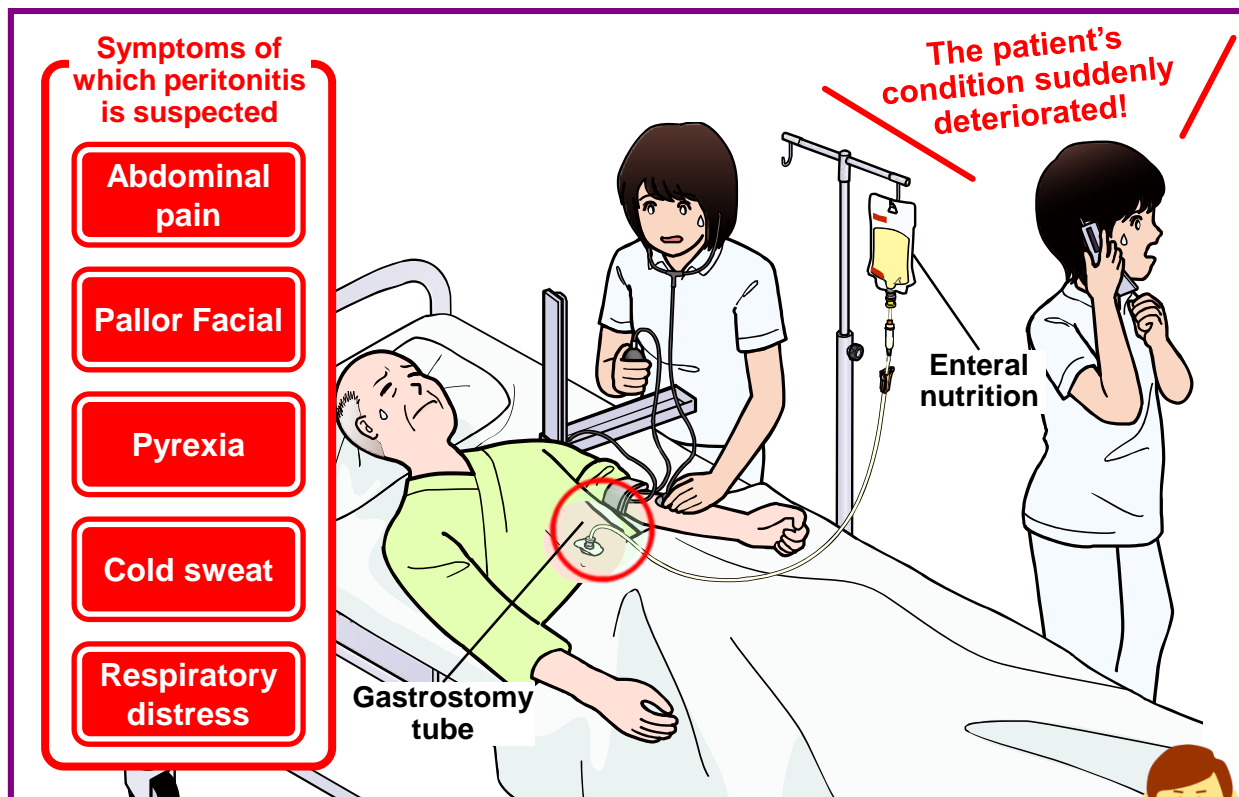
## Risks in Handling of Gastrostomy Tubes

### POINT Key points for safe use

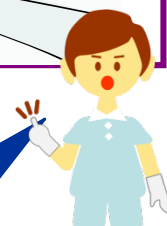
**(Case)** After replacing the gastrostomy tube and infusing nutrients, the patient started complaining about abdominal pain. His face turned pale, and blood pressure decreased. Peritonitis caused by an accidental dislodgement of the gastrostomy tube was suspected.

#### 1 Precautions to prevent gastrostomy tube dislodgement

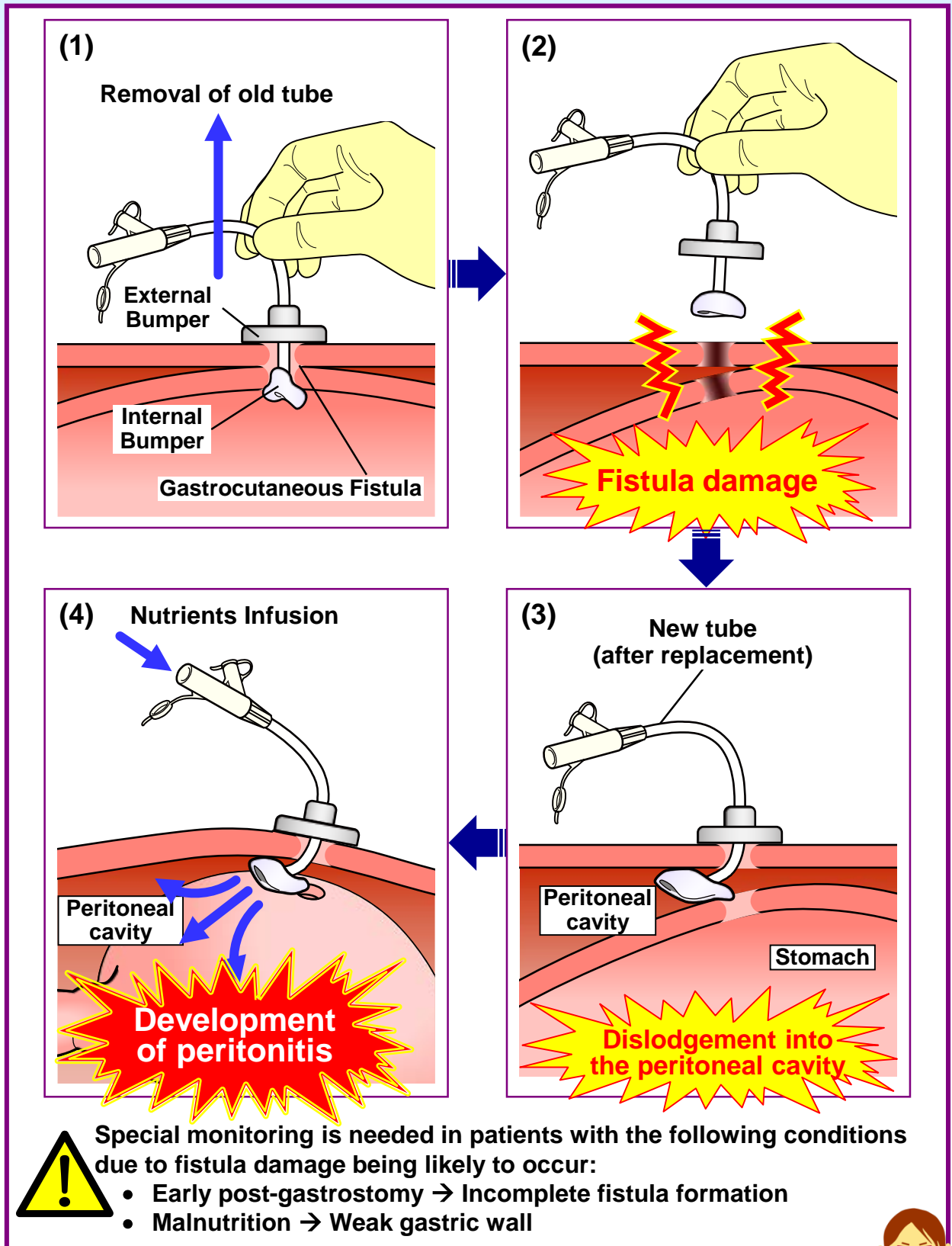
- Make sure to confirm proper position of the gastrostomy tubes in the stomach after replacement.



Several cases of peritonitis have been reported including fatal cases. The cases were accidentally infused nutrients into the peritoneal cavity due to dislodgment of the gastrostomy tubes.



An example of mechanism of gastrostomy tube dislodgement

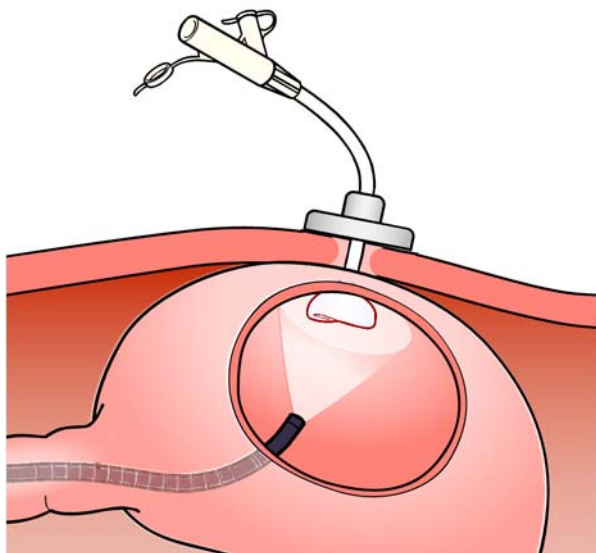


The pictures explain a case of fistula damage that occurred when a gastrostomy tube **was removed**. Damaged fistula may also occur when a gastrostomy tube **is intubated**.

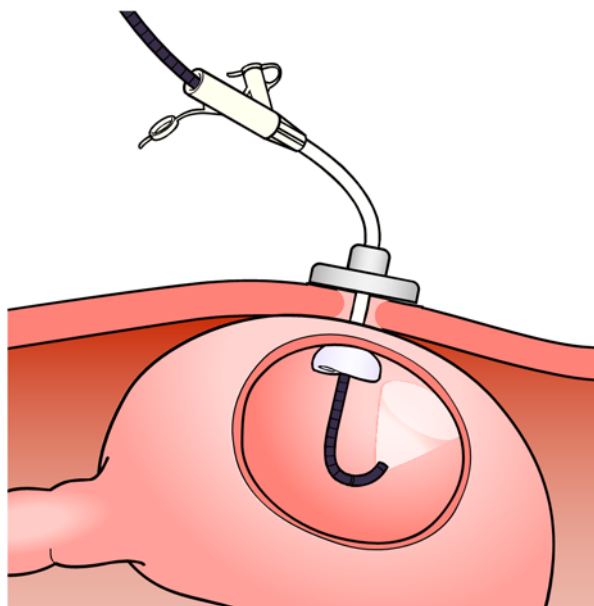


## How to confirm the proper position after replacing gastrostomy tubes

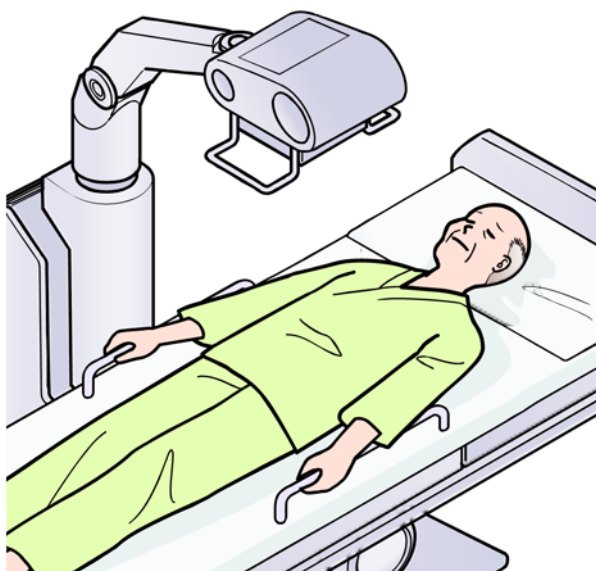
### Trans nasal endoscopy/ Per oral endoscopy



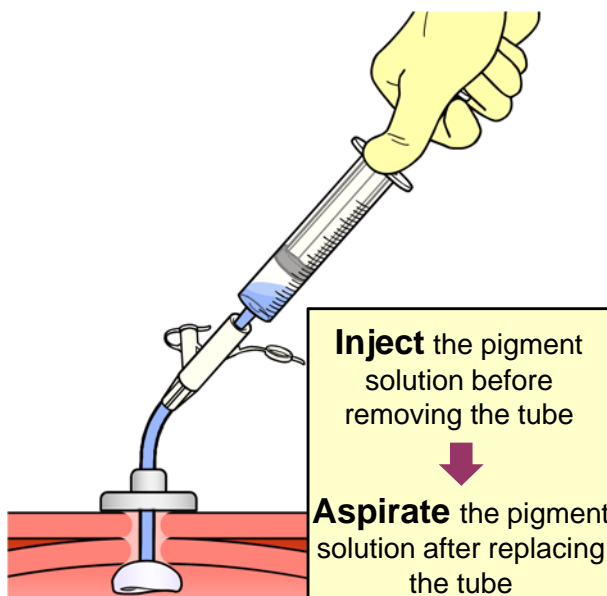
### Trans gastrostomic endoscopy



### Radioscopy



### Pigment solution injection



### Others

- Listen for air bubbles in the stomach
- Check for stomach contents

(Reference)  
PDN Lecture, Chapter 1. PEG  
Non-profit organization PEG Doctors  
Network

<http://www.peg.or.jp/lecture/index.html>

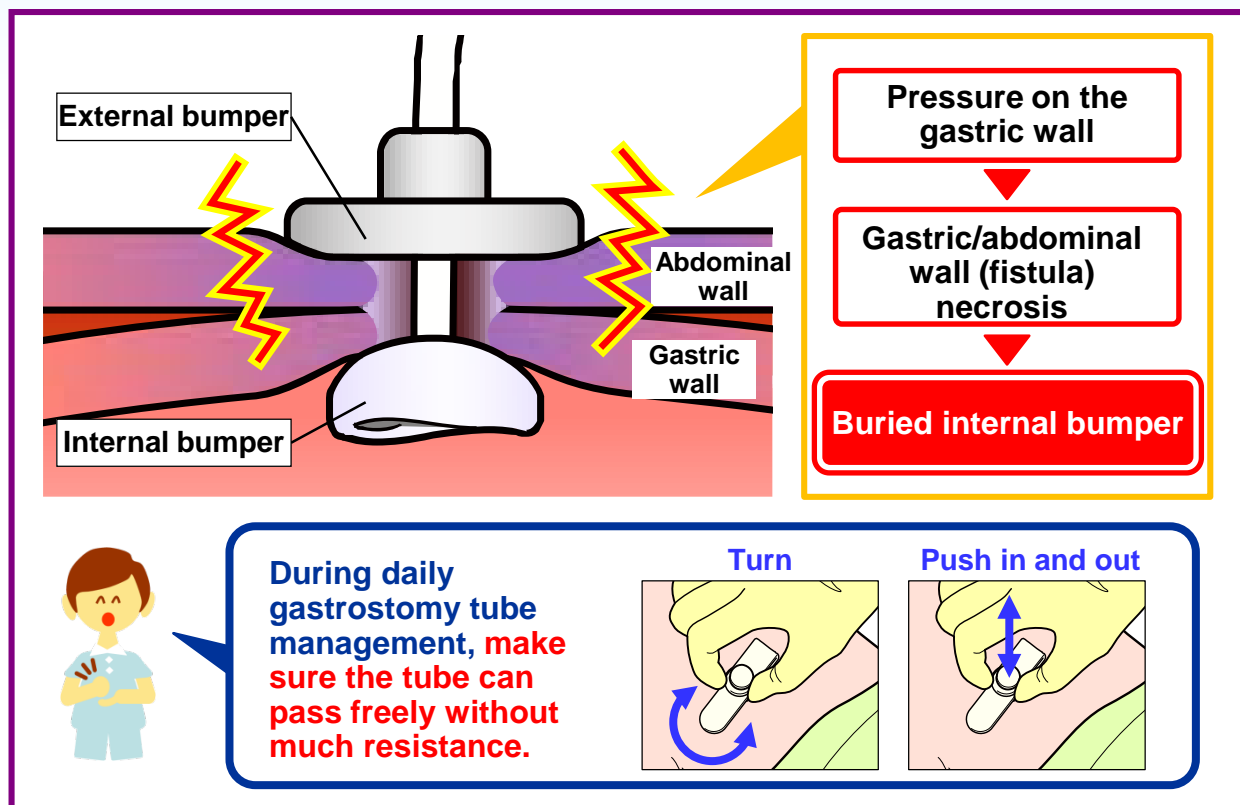
Proper placement of gastrostomy tubes can be confirmed in several ways. Use an appropriate method to check the tube position based on the patient's condition and/or recuperation environment.



**(Case)** The inability to infuse nutrients via the gastrostomy tube was confirmed. Endoscopy revealed fistula necrosis and a buried bumper (buried bumper syndrome) when checked in the stomach.

## 2 Precaution to prevent buried bumper syndrome

- Do not fasten the external and internal bumper too tightly.



Notice from organizations and groups that are related to this medical safety information is available at the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Information website (in Japanese language only)  
[http://www.info.pmda.go.jp/anzen\\_gyokai/keisyou/file/keishou03.pdf](http://www.info.pmda.go.jp/anzen_gyokai/keisyou/file/keishou03.pdf)

### About this information

- \* PMDA Medical Safety Information is issued by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency for the purpose of providing healthcare providers with clearer information from the perspective of promoting the safe use of pharmaceuticals and medical devices. The information presented here has been compiled, with the assistance of expert advice, from cases collected as Medical Accident Information Reports by the Japan Council for Quality Health Care, and collected as Adverse Drug Reaction and Malfunction Reports in accordance with the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law.
- \* We have tried to ensure the accuracy of this information at the time of its compilation but do not guarantee its accuracy in the future.
- \* This information is not intended to impose constraints on the discretion of healthcare professionals or to impose obligations and responsibility on them, but is provided as a support to promote the safe use of pharmaceuticals and medical devices by healthcare professionals.