Starship Post-Gastrostomy Insertion Feeding Protocol

Has the surgeon approved use of the feeding protocol in post op instructions?
Reasons for exclusion: concurrent procedures, metabolic/renal patient, complication in theatre, inpatient for other medical reasons

NO → Follow alternative plan in post-operative surgical notes

Has the ward dietitian reviewed feed plan rate & times? (see Nutrition Note)

NO → Contact dietitian or if after hours follow post-operative instructions.

Appears well (no vomits, tachycardia, significant pain) - Meds can be given via gastrostomy immediately (clamp 30 mins), otherwise leave on FD

NO → Withhold enteral meds, consider IV alternatives. Contact Surgical registrar for review if vomiting, tachycardic, severe pain, concerned

Feeds Step 1: Commence IVF 70% maintenance (HO to chart). HO/dietitian complete Grade Up Feed Plan times. Start feeds 4hrs post op (time of operation note) @ 1/3 of hrly goal rate via enteral pump. Reduce IV rate by same

Feeds Step 2: After 4 hours – feeds tolerated? (i.e. no significant vomits/diarrhoea, abdo distension, pain etc). **If yes** - Increase feed rate to 2/3 goal rate. Reduce IV rate by 1/3.

NO → Stop feeds for 2 hours, Surgical team to review. If IV line tissues – contact surgical team.

Feeds Step 3: After 4hours – feeds tolerated?
If yes - Increase feed rate to goal rate and cease IV fluids (IVC remains in)

NO → Reduce to previous rate, Surgical team review in 2 hours

Feeds Step 4: Is the child usually bolus fed?
After 4 hours at goal rate turn off the feeding pump. After 2 hours, give 1/2 volume bolus with feed pump over 30mins.

NO → Return to usual pump feed rate and discharge. If bolus not tolerated, Surgical team to review.

Feeds Step 5: After 2-4hrs, give usual home bolus, see Grade Up Feed Plan. If eats orally, commence diet.

Return to usual regime. Discharge Criteria:

1. Feeds tolerated
2. Pain controlled with oral/gastrostomy analgesia
3. Gastrostomy education completed (booklet given to parents), notify dietitian of discharge
4. Discharge summary
5. Follow up with primary paediatrician (not surgeon unless at surgeon's request)
6. Follow up with community dietitian the following week to ensure tolerating feeds

KEY
FD = free drainage
IVF = intravenous fluids
HO = house officer
IVC = intravenous cannula