

Complications of Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy in Patients with Severe Motor and Intellectual Disabilities

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Abstract : Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) is a generally accepted procedure and the use of PEG has increased for severely handicapped children and those who are otherwise not able to receive oral feeding are not possible. We studied 6 pediatric cases with severe mental handicaps (male: female, 4: 2, age, 19.5 ± 9 years when PEGs were inserted) who had a PEG inserted between 1997 and 2002 in the Department of Pediatrics at Fukuoka University Hospital. Five complications were observed in 4 patients. Among them, complications related to the PEG occurred in four cases. Complications were passage difficulty of formula in two, skin irritation at the PEG insertion in two and dumping syndrome in one. With the increase in PEG experience and follow-up duration in severely handicapped children and the adults, it appears that the procedure can be successfully used even in these persons. However, it is necessary to carefully screen patients to prevent the occurrence of complications associated with PEG.

Key words : Percutaneous gastrostomy, Severe motor and intellectual disabilities, Handicapped children, Complication, Enteral feeding