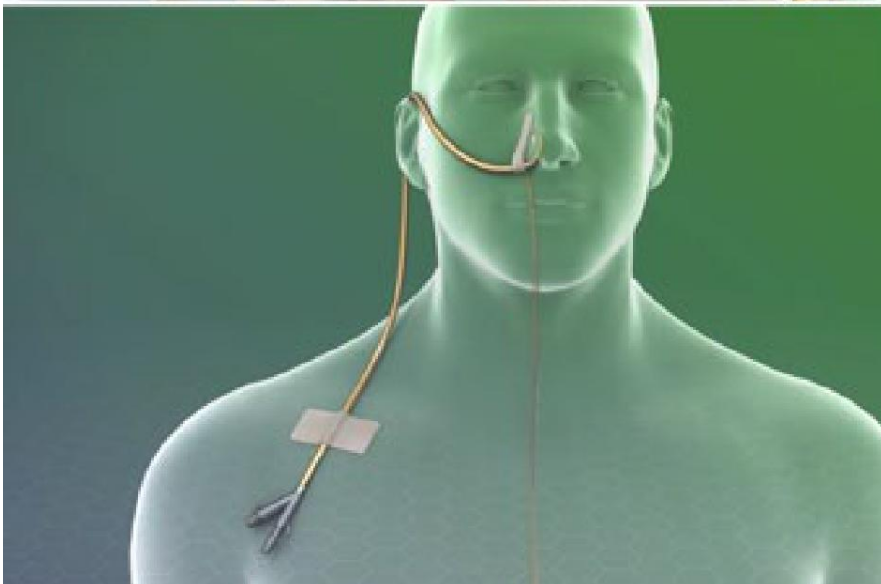
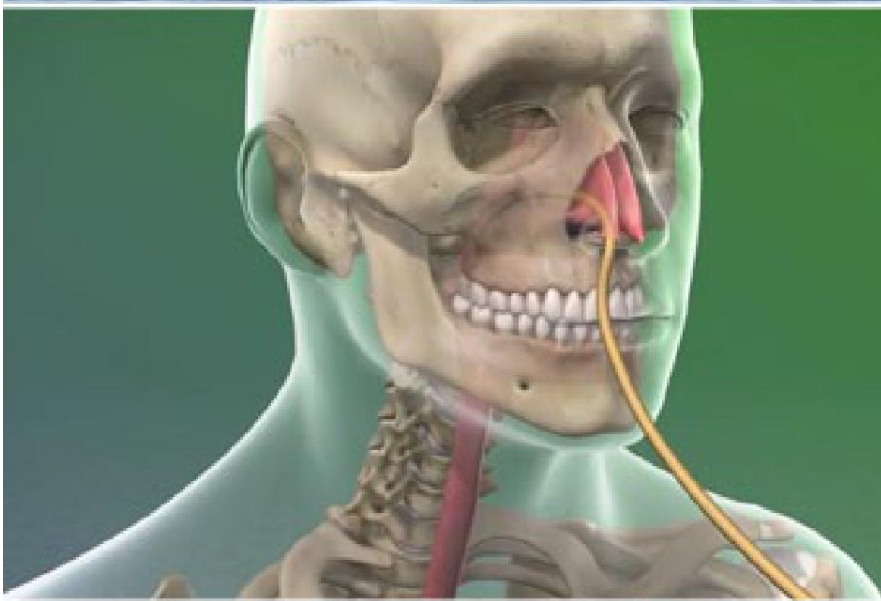




## Nasogastric (NG) Tube: Overview



### Overview

A nasogastric tube, also called an "NG tube," is a thin tube that is placed into your nose and is pushed down your esophagus and into your stomach. This procedure is called an "intubation." An NG tube is helpful for patients who can't eat or swallow.

### Why it is Used

With an NG tube in place, food and medicine can be delivered directly to your stomach. An NG tube can also be used to remove the contents of your stomach. A sample of the stomach contents helps the doctor study your digestive system. An NG tube can empty the stomach of a person who is severely intoxicated because of drug or alcohol use.

### How it is Placed

Before you are intubated, you may be asked to clear your nose and drink some water. The tube is inserted while you are sitting or lying down. You may be asked to bend into certain positions as the tube is placed to help guide it into the proper position. You may be asked to swallow or sip water during insertion. Once the tube is in place, the nostril will be taped so the tube can't be pulled out accidentally.

### Care of the NG Tube

When you are using an NG tube, you need to make sure to keep your nose and mouth clean to prevent infection. You will need to brush your teeth regularly, and the tape securing your tube should be changed regularly. You will need to let your doctor or nurse know if your tube is causing soreness or irritation. If so, it may need to be repositioned.