

The Issue

It is imperative that patients enrolled to the REDOXS[©] study receive the prescribed volume of the enteral and parenteral study supplements. The provision of adequate calories via enteral nutrition is also important.

Given the severity of illness in patients enrolled to REDOXS[©], there may be a reluctance to start the enteral study supplements early or continue with them in the face of high gastric residual volumes.

Solution

Feeding via the small bowel may be advantageous in patients with persistent high gastric residuals and we are willing to provide you with self-advancing naso-jejunal tubes from COOK medical. These tubes are called Tiger Tubes[™] Frictional Nasal Jejunal Feeding tubes and they are considered to be easy to place.



Tiger Tube[™] showing flaps

Concerns

Earlier reports showed that there were complications associated with the use of Tiger Tubes[™] in specific critically ill patient populations. These were felt to be related to the “stiffening” of the tube over time. However recent reports show that if used in the correct population, these tubes are quite safe and effective.

Contraindications:

Esophageal/gastric varices	INR > 1.3*	Anticoagulated patients*
Pathological coagulopathies	History of bleeding disorder	Peritonitis
Bowel obstruction/Ischemic Bowel	Gastric obstruction	Deviated septum
Esophageal stricture/obstruction	Recent nares/esophageal/gastric surgery or trauma	
Inability to pass tube through nares		

*at the time of insertion/removal

Use of tubes is voluntary

The use of the Tiger Tubes[™] is completely voluntary and is not mandated by the study protocol, hence a protocol amendment is not needed. These tubes are to be considered as a “tool” that you may use to optimize the delivery of enteral study supplements/enteral nutrition.

If you choose to try the Tiger Tubes[™], please see that they are only used for a maximum of 2 weeks at which point they are to be removed and replaced with a standard gastric feeding tube.

Other Details

If you are interested in trying these tubes in your REDOXS[©] patients, COOK Medical has agreed to provide 5 tubes to each site free of charge with an additional 5 to be provided to each site at a cost comparable to the CORPAK feeding tubes (site to pay for these, not sponsor). If you would like to try these tubes, please contact Kristen Martin at kristenmartin@cookcanada.com to arrange an inservice at your site by the COOK Medical representative.