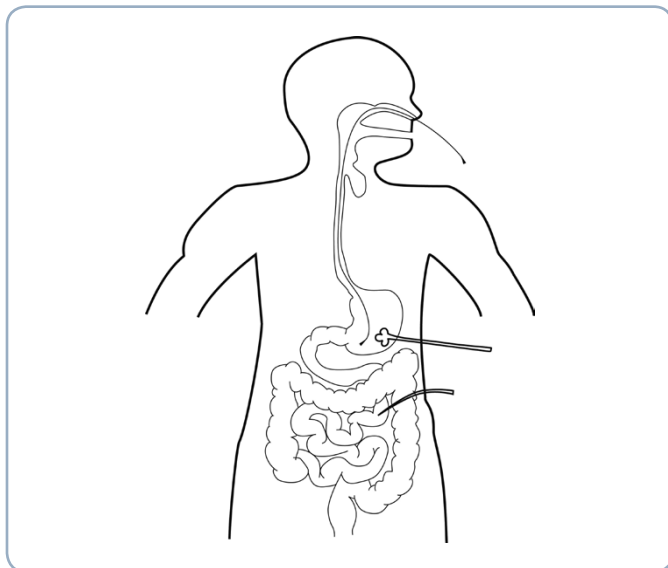


What is Enteral Nutrition?

All people need food to live. Sometimes a person cannot eat any or enough food because of an illness. Others may have a decreased appetite, difficulties in swallowing, or some type of surgery that interferes with eating. When this occurs, and one is unable to eat, nutrition must be supplied in a different way. One method is “**enteral nutrition**” or “**tube feeding**.”

Normal digestion occurs when food is broken down in the stomach and bowel, then absorbed in the bowel. These absorbed products are carried by the blood to all parts of the body.



Tube feeding is a special liquid food mixture containing protein, carbohydrates (sugar), fats, vitamins, and minerals. This special mixture is given through a tube into the stomach or small bowel and is called a tube feeding, or enteral nutrition.

Who Receives Tube Feeding?

People of all ages receive tube feeding. It may be given to infants and children, as well as to adults. People can live very well on tube feeding for as long as it is needed. Many times, tube feeding is used for a short time. The tube is removed when the person can begin to eat normally again.

How is Tube Feeding Supplied?

Tube feeding can be given through different types of tubes. One type of tube can be placed through the nose into the stomach or bowel. This tube is called a **nasogastric** or **nasoenteral** feeding tube. Sometimes the tube is placed directly through the skin into the stomach or bowel. This is called a **gastrostomy** or **jejunostomy**. Your healthcare team (doctors, nurses, dietitians, and pharmacists) will talk with you about the different types of feeding tubes.