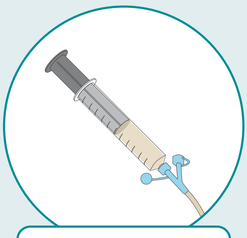
DELIVERY METHODS

UNDERSTANDING THE METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION FOR ENTERAL NUTRITION

Patients receive enteral nutrition using one of several different delivery methods, each with unique benefits and challenges. Clinicians work closely with patients and their caregivers to determine the optimal delivery method for each individual patient. Factors to be assessed include the functioning and capacity of the GI tract, underlying disease states, patient tolerance, and lifestyle. A summary of the different delivery methods is provided below.



BOLUS

Bolus feeding uses a syringe to deliver a specific amount of formula over a short period of time. Formula is loaded into a syringe which is connected to the patient's feeding tube. The syringe plunger can be used to push the formula to the patient, or the plunger can be removed, which allows the syringe to be held upright like a funnel and slowly deliver formula by gravity.

BENEFITS

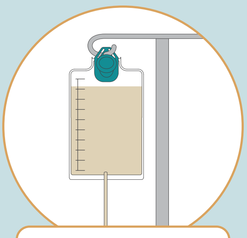
- Convenient feeding schedules similar to normal feeding patterns
- Shorter feeding times with each feed lasting about 15-20 minutes

CHALLENGES

- Sometimes harder for the patient to tolerate, resulting in bloating, cramping, nausea, or diarrhea
- May not be practical for large volumes or when around the clock feedings are required

SUPPLIES NEEDED

Syringe
Formula



GRAVITY

When delivering enteral nutrition using a gravity feeding method, a specific amount of formula is placed into a gravity feeding bag which is then hung from an IV pole. The feeding bag is connected to the patient's feeding tube and formula flows into the patient. A roller clamp allows the patient or caregiver to control the rate at which the formula is delivered.

BENEFITS

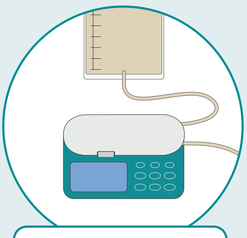
- Flow rate can be adjusted as needed to maximize patient tolerance
- Easy to setup and use

CHALLENGES

- Patient is essentially "tied" to the IV pole during the feeding, limiting mobility and activity
- Gravity flow rates may be inconsistent and requires frequent supervision

SUPPLIES NEEDED

Gravity feeding bag
IV pole
Syringe
Formula



PUMP

Enteral feeding pumps are used to deliver a specific amount of formula over a set period of time. Formula is placed into a feeding bag, which is attached to the pump and to the patient. The pump is programmed to push formula through the feeding tube at a prescribed rate. Some pumps are attached to an IV pole, while some are placed in backpacks for ambulatory use, allowing for more freedom of movement.

BENEFITS

- Flow rate can be programmed to optimize patient tolerance
- Wide range of flow rates allows for continuous feeding or intermittent feeding
- Patient can be active and mobile even while feeding

CHALLENGES

- More complex setup requiring pump programming
- Patient is essentially "tied" to the IV pole if a non-ambulatory pump is used

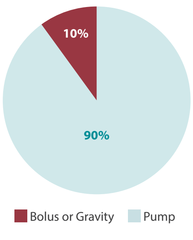
SUPPLIES NEEDED

Enteral feeding pump
Pump feeding bag
IV pole or backpack
Syringe
Formula

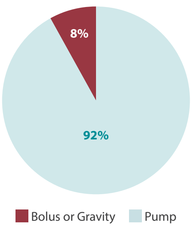
DELIVERY METHODS BY THE NUMBERS

Depending on patient needs, clinicians will choose to prescribe different delivery methods. The charts below show how often bolus or gravity methods are used vs. enteral feeding pump methods in different care settings.*

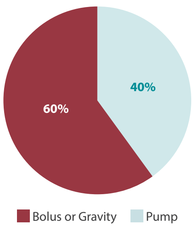
ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL



LONG TERM CARE HOSPITAL



HOME CARE



* ASPEN Enteral Nutrition by the Numbers, 2017

Infinity® Enteral Feeding Pump BY MOOG®

MD-81889 Rev. A