

(12) PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATION

(21) Application No.201741010901 A

(19) INDIA

(22) Date of filing of Application :28/03/2017

(43) Publication Date : 14/04/2017

(54) Title of the invention : TELE - PAG TUBE: TELESCOPIC PEDIATRIC ADJUSTABLE GASTROSTOMY TUBE

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(32) Priority Date	:NA	<b>UNIVERSITY - JSS UNIVERSITY</b>
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(57) Abstract :

Gastrostomy tube (Tube inserted into the stomach from the abdominal surface for feeding and administration of medication) placement is a common surgical procedure in children, often necessary to allow for supplemental hydration, nutrition, and medication administration to patients with various illnesses. It is the third most common non-cardiac surgical procedure performed in children . Commonly performed in neonates with congenital esophageal anomalies, neurologically impaired and as a long term mode of enteral feeds in children who are unable to swallow in conditions such as cerebral palsy etc. Though it is a routine operation, with a short hospital stay and low immediate post-operative morbidity the complication rates vary from 8-44% with frequent emergency visits and readmissions. The reasons for these return visits included a specific diagnosis of infection of gastrostomy(26.6%), mechanical complication of gastrostomy tube (22%), and Gastrostomy tube replacement (19.4%). Currently available tubes are designed for older children and adult population resulting in higher than expected mechanical complications when used in neonates and small children. The present invention addresses such issues. Te/e-PAG is a gastrostomy access device comprising of a catheter consists of an intra corporeal and extracorporeal components with a set of two circular tubes, the inner tube telescoping within the outer by a screw mechanism. The external surface of the outer tube is smooth and its terminal portion encloses a perforated retention device. The inner tube bearing screw threads on its outer wall can rotate within the outer tube. The feeding lumen within the inner tube consists of a circular channel on its cross section. A housing to fit a standard syringe port is provided at the external end. Near the inner end which stays within the lumen of the stomach is a food outlet port with an expanded tip with perforations on the surface facing the stomach lumen.

No. of Pages : 8 No. of Claims : 10