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| Nasogastric Tube Insertion | | | | NO. 52 | |
| PURPOSE:  The nasogastric tube is used for feeding in patients who are unable or unwilling to take food by mouth.  EQUIPMENT:  1. Disposable nasogastric tube  2. Lubricate  3. Catheter tip syringe with plunger  4. Stethoscope  5. Appropriate drugs and sponges  PROCEDURE: 15 min. 0.25 hr.  1. Check doctor’s order.  2. Take equipment to room and explain procedure to patient.  3. Place patient in semi-fowler position.  4. Wash hands.  5. Clean patient’s nose and lips with soap and water.  6. Measure the approximate distance it will be necessary to insert the tube by determining the distance from the bridge of the nose to the tope of the sternum. Mark this distance before inserting the tube.  7. Lubricate the tube, and insert gently into the nostril. Ask the patient to swallow frequently if he is able to cooperate. If not contraindicate, may offer resident a drink. Do not force the tube. If an obstruction is encountered, the other nostril should be used.  8. Check frequently to be sure the tube is going through the esophagus and is not curling up in the patient’s mouth, or entering the trachea.  9. When the tube has been inserted the proper distance, check to be sure it is in the stomach by aspirating the stomach contents with the syringe. Check for stomach sounds with a stethoscope as a double check. | | | | | |
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| Nasogastric Tube Insertion, continued | | | | NO. 52 | |
| 10. If the patient coughs, has difficulty breathing, or you do not aspirate stomach contents – do not introduce fluids if there is any doubt about the placement of the tube.  11. If the tube is not in the stomach, remove and re-insert it.  12. Secure the tube with tape when you are sure it is in the stomach.  13. Leave patient in semi-fowlers position for 30 minutes after procedure.  14. Remove equipment from room.  CHART:  1. Date and time nasogastric tube inserted.  2. How resident tolerated procedure.  3. Other pertinent information.  POINTS OF INTEREST:  1. If patient is confused or belligerent, be sure to check for the need for hand and/or wrist restraints, and avoid frequent replacing of the tube. Be sure to obtain the doctor’s orders for all restraints.  2. Provide daily care to prevent crusting and irritation of tissues of nose, mouth and throat. | | | | | |
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