Prevention and Management of Enteral Feeding Tube Occlusion

Objectives:
1. Review feeding tubes used for enteral administration of nutrition and medications.
2. Identify appropriate flushing and medication administration methods to be used in patients with enteral feeding tubes that will minimize risk of tube occlusion.
3. Discuss strategies for restoring patency in an occluded feeding tube, including the use of pancreatic enzymes and other available agents.

Outline:
I. Overview of enteral feeding tubes
   a. Nasogastric / nasojejunal
   b. Gastrostomy / jejunostomy
   c. Gastrojejunal

II. Overview of complications
   a. Physical complications
   b. Drug-drug interactions
   c. Drug-nutrient interactions

III. Prevention of enteral feeding tube occlusion
   a. Routine flushing
   b. Medication administration

IV. Management of enteral feeding tube occlusion
   a. Warm water
   b. Pancreatic enzymes
   c. Declogging kits
   d. Enteral feeding tube exchange
   e. Other methods (i.e. cranberry juice, cola, meat tenderizer, etc.)

V. Questions / Answers

Self-Assessment Questions/Answers:
I. Which of the following should be considered for the management of an occluded enteral feeding tube?
   a. Carbonated beverage
   b. Cranberry juice
   c. **Pancreatic enzymes**
   d. Lemon juice

II. Describe the best method to utilize flushes when administering medications by enteral feeding tube.
   a. **Flush 15 mL of water after each medication is administered**
   b. Flush 15 mL of water after all medications are administered
   c. Flush 15 mL of water after each medication is administered
   d. Flush 150 mL of water after all medications are administered

III. When declogging an enteral feeding tube, what information should be obtained?
a. Medications given prior to occlusion  
b. Enteral nutrition product  
c. Declogging methods previously used  
d. All the above

Reference: