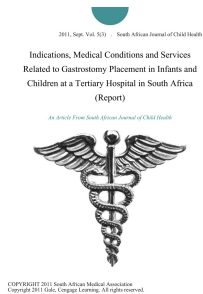


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## INDICATIONS MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND SERVICES RELATED TO GASTROSTOMY PLACEMENT IN INFANTS AND CHILDREN AT A TERTIARY HOSPITAL IN SOUTH AFRICA REPORT EBOOKS 2019



Author: South African Journal of Child Health

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Feeding via gastrostomy tubes, including percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy, is used in paediatric patients when long-term enteral feeding is required. (1) This form of alternative feeding may be indicated in infants and children with feeding and swallowing difficulties (dysphagia), particularly when these difficulties result in aspiration (entry of food or liquid into the trachea) and/or growth faltering. (2,3) Gastrostomy feeding may also be indicated in paediatric patients with structural abnormalities, or those who require unpalatable diets or medications. (4) Dysphagia has been reported as the primary indicator for gastrostomy placement in a number of studies. (4-6) Gastrostomy placement appears to be reported more frequently in certain populations, such as those with neurological impairment, (4,7,8) gastro-intestinal tract (GIT) abnormalities<sup>4</sup> and cardiac defects. (4,9) The reported prevalence of feeding and swallowing difficulties in infants and children with neurological impairment ranges from 30% (10) to over 90%, (11) which may explain the need for gastrostomy placement. Infants with cardiac defects may have difficulty with feeding endurance, resulting in poor weight gain and the need for alternative feeding. (9)

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