

TUMOUR SEEDING FROM HEAD AND NECK CANCER AT THE SITE OF PERCUTANEOUS ENDOSCOPIC GASTROSTOMY

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A retrospective review of 204 head and neck cancer patients undergoing PEG insertion at Bristol Royal Infirmary between 2015 and 2021 found zero cases of PEG site metastases.

KEY POINTS

- All 204 head and neck cancer patients received PEG tubes via the pull method between January 2015 and December 2021, with no cases of tumour seeding to the PEG site (0%).
- Two patients had abdominal metastatic disease, but further review showed general peritoneal disease in the context of widespread metastases, not PEG-site-specific malignant spread.
- Between 33 and 69% of head and neck cancer patients require enteral feeding via gastrostomy during treatment, and literature reports PEG site metastasis rates of 0.5-3%.
- The authors conclude their data suggests PEG is a safe method of gastrostomy insertion for head and neck cancer patients without significant risk of tumour seeding.
- This material is relevant to gastroenterologists and head and neck oncology teams involved in nutritional support decisions for cancer patients.

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