

Advanced roles for nurses in PEG placement: Challenges in the implementation phase

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Presentation

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The speaker described a German national training program enabling nurses to perform PEG placement through structured education, reporting that trained nurses achieved 50% fewer complications than physicians in one hospital comparison.

KEY POINTS

- A three-day accredited course teaches nurses both traditional pull-through PEG and hybrid PEG technique (pull-through plus suturing of abdominal layers), with practical and written examination.
- Clinical data from one university hospital showed nurses who completed the course had 50% fewer minor and major complications than physicians, as stated by the speaker.
- Survey of 87 course participants revealed that while 85% successfully implemented nurse-led PEG placement, 64% encountered physician resistance to adopting the hybrid PEG technique.
- Physicians did not see the necessity for hybrid PEG and gave negative comments, creating a hierarchy problem that prevented implementation despite the complication reduction reported by the speaker.
- Course organizers plan to provide checklists, literature statements, refresher courses, and a hotline to support nurses in advocating for the hybrid technique at their institutions.
- The speaker stated that hybrid PEG adds only 3 to 4 minutes to the procedure and prevents buried bumpers and infections through closer fixation of abdominal layers.

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