Self-Collapsing Feeding Tube with Cleaning Mechanism

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**Background & Unmet Need**

- Jejunostomy feeding tubes (J-tubes) are often needed to support the enteral nutrition needs of a patient during both short and long-term illnesses.
- Current catheters are typically simple tubes that are placed surgically through the abdominal wall and inserted into the proximal small intestine.
- The only anchor is a simple suture in the skin wrapped around the tube externally, leading to risk of tube migration.
- Additional potential adverse effects include skin excoriation and cellulitis of the abdominal wall due to leakage.
- In addition, feeding tubes often become clogged, necessitating tube replacement if the obstruction cannot be cleared.
- **Unmet Need**: Improved J-tube design that prevents tube migration and enables clearance of blockages.

**Technology Overview**

- **The Technology**: J-tube that includes external and internal anchors to prevent migration and dislodgement, plus a cleaning mechanism to clear blockages.
- The device includes a flexible intra-peritoneal “anchoring” bumper that lies between the small intestine and intra-abdominal wall.
- This anchor prevents inadvertent retrograde displacement of the tube but is flexible enough so that the J-tube can be safely removed by a clinician.
- In addition, the device is compatible with a fixed-length bristle brush that can be inserted into the lumen of the tube to clear obstructions.
- Importantly, the cleaning brush is the same length as the J-tube, preventing accidental damage to the small intestine.

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**Patents:**
US Application Filed

**Publications:**
N/A

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**Technology Applications**

- Improved J-tube design for patients requiring enteral nutrition
- Applicable for both short- and long-term enteral nutrition

**Technology Advantages**

- Anchors prevent J-tube migration and dislodgement
- Includes cleaning brush to remove tube blockages
- Reduces risk of complications due to leakage

**Supporting Data / Figures**

**Figure 1:** Drawings of the disclosed self-collapsing feeding tube, which contains a cleaning mechanism. The lower drawing includes the cleaning brush design.

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