

Specialist use of drains

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Nasogastric drainage The role of nasogastric tube placement in the surgical patient has been steeped in dogma. There is no doubt that selective use of nasogastric tubes have a vital place in the perioperative management of patients; however, there is a trend to move away from routine placement of nasogastric tubes and from keeping them in place for protracted lengths of time when inserted. Most enhanced recovery after surgery (ERAS) pathways forbid the prophylactic use of nasogastric tubes in the elective setting, except following procedures in the upper aerodigestive tract. The indications and potential problems associated with nasogastric drainage have been detailed in Summary boxes 7.12 and 7.13 . Specialist use of drains

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