



Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Sucraflate Enemas 2g/50ml

Information for Patients



Why do I need sucralfate enemas?

After radiotherapy, fragile blood vessels can develop in any part of the bowel and may bleed. Other common symptoms include diarrhoea and urgency. If these changes affect mainly the end part of your bowel, this condition is called radiation proctitis. It is self-limiting in most people. Symptoms in a very small percentage of people become troublesome and chronic which warrants treatment with sucralfate. Research shows that improvements may be seen as early as 1 week after initiation of treatment.

How do sucralfate enemas work?

Sucralfate is a medication (licenced in the EU) usually used for ulcers in the stomach. Following research, sucralfate enemas have also been shown to be effective in treating radiation proctitis. Sucralfate forms a protective layer over the bowel lining and protects the fragile blood vessels from breaking. Sucralfate enemas may also increase the rate of healing of these fragile blood vessels and reduces irritation of the bowel lining.

What dose do I take?

The recommended dose is one enema TWICE daily for FOUR weeks but may be continued as advised by your doctor for up to 6 months.

Preparing/administering sucralfate enema:

The product is ready to administer as a single use application

1. Unscrew the tamper evident cap and screw on the nozzle attachment.
2. Position a towel underneath yourself to catch any leakage of fluid once the enema has been administered.
3. Lie on your left side and bend both knees towards your chest. This position will help the flow of liquid into the rectum and aid enema retention.
4. Gently insert the nozzle of the enema bottle to a depth of approximately 10cm (4 inches) into the rectum.
5. Squeeze the bottle using a steady and even pressure, until the entire contents of the bottle has been administered. Slowly withdraw the nozzle.
6. Try to retain the enema in the rectum for as long as possible. Remain relaxed in the administration position for up to 15 minutes or until the urge to pass the enema has disappeared. Remain lying and gently roll over several times to ensure maximum coverage of the affected area of bowel.

Where do I get supplies of the enemas?

An initial prescription for 4 weeks will be supplied from the hospital. You will be reviewed in clinic to see if ongoing supplies are needed.

Are there any potential side effects?

Sucralfate is not greatly absorbed into the body, particularly if administered via the rectum. Constipation, dry mouth and nausea have been reported. You should let your doctor know if you experience any side effects.

Keep all medicines out of the reach of children.

Never give any medication prescribed for you to anyone else.

It may harm them even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

Further Information

Please speak to the department where you are being seen if you would like an interpreter. You will find their contact details on your appointment letter. Please also ask them if you would like this information leaflet in another format, such as:

- easy read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronically
- in another language.

We have tried to make this information meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They will be happy to help.

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Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
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