

North Glasgow University Hospitals NHS Division
Clinical Procedure Manual
Section B – Administration of Medicines and Parenteral Therapy

2.16 Suppositories into a colostomy

Objectives

By the end of this section you should know how to:

- Prepare the patient for the procedure;
- Collect and prepare the equipment;
- Administer the suppositories into a colostomy to facilitate evacuation of bowel contents.

Indications for administering a suppository in a colostomy

Suppositories may be used to:

- Relieve constipation;
- Evacuate the bowel;
- Administer medication eg. antibiotics, antiemetics, bronchodilators.

Equipment

- Tray
- Disposable gloves
- Disposable drape
- Bowl of warm water
- White roll/wipes
- Water soluble lubricant
- Gauze swabs
- Tape
- Receptacle for disposables
- Prescribed suppository
- Air Freshener spray
- New appliance

Procedure

- Perform hand hygiene;
- Collect and prepare equipment;
- Explain the procedure to the patient;
- Ensure patient's privacy;
- Place disposable drape under patient's buttocks;
- Follow procedure for Administration of Medicines up to "Check patient's identity";
- Use spray in the air;
- Wear gloves to remove the used appliance;
- Wash and dry the area;
- Perform hand hygiene;
- Apply gloves;
- Insert finger into stoma to ascertain position of the bowel or proximal loop if loop colostomy.
- Lubricate the end of the suppository using the water soluble lubricant;
- Insert the suppository into the stoma (proximal loop if loop colostomy);

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2.16 Suppositories into a Colostomy cont.

Procedure cont ...

- Apply gauze swabs and tape over the stoma to keep the suppositories in place;
- Patient should lie in recumbent position for 20 minutes to allow the suppositories to dissolve;
- After 20 minutes or if any faeces appear, apply new gloves and re-apply new stoma appliance;
- Patients should lie in recumbent position for 30 minutes;
- Dispose of equipment as per Division policy;
- Perform hand hygiene;
- Document the administration of the drug;
- Monitor for after effects and report any abnormalities immediately.

REFERENCES:

1. Mallett, J. and Dougherty, L. (2000) Bowel care. *Manual of Clinical Nursing Procedures* Oxford: Blackwell Science. Ch.6 pp 131-145.
2. Mallett, J. and Dougherty, L. (2000) Drug administration. *Manual of Clinical Nursing Procedures* Oxford: Blackwell Science. Ch.12 pp 211-254.
3. McCaffery, M., Martin, L., and Ferrell, B. R. (1992) Analgesic administration via rectum or stoma. *Journal of ET Nursing* 19(4): 114-121.