

Paraldehyde

(Given Rectally for Prolonged Seizures)



Neurosciences Nursing Department

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Why is this medication given?

This medication is used to treat seizures that last longer than five minutes or come in clusters.

The right dose to give is:

Give _____ millilitres (mls) of

Paraldehyde mixed with _____ mls of mineral oil.

The right time to give this medication is:

- ▶ When a seizure lasts longer than five minutes, or
- ▶ When a cluster of seizures goes on for more than _____ minutes.

The right way to give this medication is:

1. Gather these supplies:

- Paraldehyde (each vial contains 5 mls of medication)
- Mineral oil or olive oil
- Blunt needle and syringe (if blunt needles are not available use a large gauge needle such as a size 18, 19, or 20)
- 3" length of feeding tube
- Sharps container

2. Prepare the syringe:

- Check expiry date on Paraldehyde vial. If it has expired, DO NOT GIVE and call an ambulance.
- Attach the needle to the syringe (leave the cover on the needle while you do this).
- Remove cap from Paraldehyde vial.
- Remove the needle cover and draw up _____ mls of oil into syringe.

- Using the same syringe insert needle into Paraldehyde vial and withdraw _____ mls of medication, being careful to withdraw the exact amount you require (the medication will mix with the oil as you do this).
- Pull back on the plunger to take in 1cc of air.
- Recap the needle and remove it from the syringe.
- Attach the tube to the end of the syringe.
- Hold the syringe so that the tube is hanging down and gently push the plunger until the medication reaches the end of the tube (the air should be at the top of the syringe).

3. Give the dose:

- Roll your child onto the side.
- Push the tube gently into the rectum _____ inches.
- Push the plunger down slowly while counting to ten. Make sure that the air goes into the tubing after the medication, so that all the medication is given.
- Discard the needle, syringe and tubing after each dose into the sharps container.

4. Keep your child on his/her side.

- Watch your child's breathing and colour for 20 minutes. If your child's skin turns grey or bluish, call an ambulance. Be prepared to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation if your child stops breathing.

ALERT:

- **Never give a second dose of Paraldehyde within 8 hours without the advice of your physician.**
- **Never leave Paraldehyde in the syringe for longer than 10 minutes. Give right away or discard and prepare a new dose.**

If the seizure does not stop:

- Call an ambulance. Tell the ambulance attendant how much Paraldehyde you gave and the time you gave it.
- Stay with your child.
- **Talk calmly to your child.**

Helpful hints:

1. Store all supplies, including Paraldehyde and this instruction sheet, together. A small make-up bag is ideal.
2. Never use Paraldehyde if it looks brown or smells like vinegar.
3. Paraldehyde dissolves plastics, cork and rubber. Please prepare and administer dose as quickly as possible. Discard plastic supplies after they have been used. You can buy glass syringes that can be washed and reused.
4. Carry your Paraldehyde kit with you at all times (seizures can happen at any time).
5. Only people trained by a qualified nurse should give your child Paraldehyde. You can ask the clinic nurse to train your child's caregivers.
6. Go over these notes every 3-4 months to refresh your memory. Check expiry dates on the Paraldehyde vials every 3-4 months. Mark review dates on your calendar.
7. Dispose of Paraldehyde vials in your sharps container which can be obtained from your local pharmacy.

If you have any questions, contact your clinic
nurse:

at tel: _____

At Children's & Women's Health Centre of British Columbia we believe parents are partners on the health care team. We want you to be as informed as possible. This brochure will answer some of your questions. Please ask about things you do not understand and share your concerns.

If you have any questions, please call : the clinic nurse