

Paraldehyde



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What is Paraldehyde?

Paraldehyde is a medication used to treat seizures that last longer than 5 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 Paraldehyde is:

- ▶ When a seizure lasts longer than 5 minutes, OR
- ▶ When a cluster of seizures (greater than ____ seizures) goes on for more than ____ minutes.

The right way to give this medication is:

1. Gather 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 feeding tube
- Sharps container (container that allows you to discard the needle in a safe way)

2. Prepare the syringe:

- Attach the needle to the syringe (leave the cover on the needle while you do this).
- Remove cap from oil and the Paraldehyde vial.
- Remove the needle cover and draw up _____ mLs of oil into syringe.
- Using the same syringe, insert the needle into the Paraldehyde vial and withdraw ____ mLs of medication. The Paraldehyde will mix with the oil as you do this. Be careful to withdraw

the exact amount of medication that your child requires. The total volume _____.

- Pull back on the plunger to take in 1mL of air.
- Recap the needle and remove it from the syringe.
- Attach the feeding 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 your child Paraldehyde:

- Roll your child onto his/her side.
- Push the tube gently into your child's rectum _____ inches.
- Push the plunger down slowly while counting to 10. Make sure that the air goes into the tubing after the medication to ensure that all the Paraldehyde is given.
- Discard the needle, syringe, tubing, and unused Paraldehyde and vial 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 your child mouth-to-mouth resuscitation if he/she stops breathing.

ALERT:

- **Never give a 2nd dose of Paraldehyde within 8 hours of the 1st dose without the advice of your child's physician.**
- **Never leave Paraldehyde in the syringe for longer than 10 minutes. Give your child Paraldehyde right away or discard and prepare a new dose.**
- **Always check the expiry date on the Paraldehyde vial before giving it to your child. If it has expired, DO NOT GIVE medication and call an ambulance.**

If the seizure does not stop:

- Call an ambulance. Tell the ambulance attendant how much Paraldehyde you gave your child 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.

Store supplies at room temperature in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight. Do not store in the bathroom or kitchen, or leave in the car. Keep out of reach of children and pets.
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.
4. Carry your child's 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 instruction sheet every 3 to 4 months to refresh your memory. Check expiry dates on the Paraldehyde vials every 3 to 4 months. Mark review dates on your calendar.
7. Discard the needle, syringe, tubing, and unused Paraldehyde and vial into the sharps container. You can get a sharps container from your local pharmacy.
8. Call your pharmacy for refills at least 2 weeks before your child's supply of Paraldehyde expires.

If you have any questions, contact the 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.

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