

Childhood Occasional Constipation



Childhood Constipation

Nearly all childhood constipation is functional, where no underlying structural or biochemical abnormality is identifiable.^{1,2}

Childhood functional constipation is often established in infancy and early childhood. Secondary causes of lifestyle and dietary factors play a role and is often seen in the following situations:³



Transitioning from breastfeeding to formula feeding or solid food³



Poor toilet training, rushing the acitivity



Allergy to cow's milk protein could trigger constipation³



Withholding behaviour causing pain when passing stools ^{1,3}



Psychological stress (school or family)³



Disorders such as autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)¹



Refusing to use public facilities or those at school.¹



Finding it difficult to stop playing or put down an electronic device.¹

Up to 3 in 4 constipated children may present with faecal impaction.¹ Early treatment is important to help children recover faster and reduce the risk of constipation relapses.¹



2 Steps to managing functional constipation without colon dysfunction

Disimpact and Maintain²



Oral osmotic laxatives are recommended, can be used long-term, but may take a few days to provide relief.^{1,2}

Rectal products provide more rapid relief, but may be regarded as invasive, recommended for severe faecal impaction.¹

Phosphate enemas should be avoided due to the risk of electrolyte imbalance and renal failure.²

Microenemas may be used in a outpatient setting.²



microlax[®] microenema

Efficacy in children:⁵



Results from an open-label, multi-center, prospective study on the symptomatic treatment of children and infants (n=411) with constipation reports on tolerability and efficacy of a microenema containing sodium citrate, sorbitol, sodium lauryl sulfoacetate.⁵



References:

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Chan P, Lee CH. Constipation in children. MedicineToday 2017;18(9):62-63.
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Leung AKC, Hon KL. Paediatrics: how to manage functional constipation. Drugs in Context 2021;10:2020-11-2. DOI: 10.7573/dic.2020-11-2.
Schneider JY. Constipation in Children and Infants. Deutsche Apotheker Zeitung 2008;148:106-107.
REF-DOF-ZA-0028 Microlax RWE study.

50 MICROLAX[®] Each 1 ml contains: Sodium Citrate 90,0 mg; Sodium Lauryl Sulphoacetate 70 % 12,9 mg; Sorbitol liquid 893,0 mg. Ref.No.: E911 (Act 101/1965).

For full prescribing information refer to the Professional Information approved by the Medicines Regulatory Authority.

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