

Laclose®

Lactulose

Description

Lactulose (**Laclose®**) is a synthetic disaccharide consisting of two monosaccharides, galactose and fructose. It is used in the treatment of constipation and hepatic encephalopathy.

Mode of action

Lactulose is broken down by colonic bacteria mainly into lactic acid. This exerts a local osmotic effect in the colon resulting in increased faecal bulk and stimulation of peristalsis. When larger doses are given for hepatic encephalopathy the pH in the colon is reduced significantly and the absorption of ammonium ions and other toxic nitrogenous compounds is decreased, leading to a fall in blood-ammonia concentration and an improvement in mental function.

Pharmacokinetics

Following administration by mouth, Lactulose passes unchanged into the large intestine where it is metabolised by saccharolytic bacteria. The small amount of absorbed Lactulose is subsequently excreted unchanged in the urine.

Composition

Laclose® 100 ml Syrup: Each 5 ml contains Lactulose USP 3.4 gm.

Indications

Constipation, Portal systemic encephalopathy.

Dosage & administration

Constipation: Adults should begin with 15 ml of lactulose twice daily and increase or decrease the dose as necessary to achieve the desired effect. Child under 1 year: 2.5 ml twice daily; 1-5 years: 5 ml twice daily; 5-10 years: 10 ml twice daily.

Hepatic encephalopathy: 30-50 ml 3 times daily, subsequently adjusted to produce 2-3 soft stools daily.

Contraindications

Galactosaemia and gastrointestinal obstruction.

Side effects

Tympanites and increased flatulence may occur during the first few days. These symptoms usually disappear with continued therapy. Diarrhoea may occur especially with higher doses.

Use in pregnancy & lactation

No hazards have been reported with its usage in pregnancy and lactation.

Precautions

Care should be taken in patients with lactose intolerance or in diabetic patients because of the presence of free galactose and fructose.

Drug interactions

Not known drug interactions. As lactulose is largely unabsorbed from the gastrointestinal tract this lead to the development of the differential sugar absorption test in which 2 sugars are given simultaneously by mouth.

Overdosage

Lactulose is not absorbed to any significant degree. Diarrhoea indicates overdosage. Treatment should be symptomatic.

Storage

Store in a cool and dry place, protected from light.

Packaging

Laclose® 100 ml Syrup: Each carton contains a bottle having 100 ml syrup.


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