


Glycerol (Glycerine)

Newborn use only

2019

Alert	
Indication	Facilitation of passage of meconium. Constipation.
Action	Osmotic laxative that acts by increasing osmotic pressure in the gut; It also stimulates rectal contraction. ¹ Onset may take 15–30 minutes.
Drug Type	Laxative
Trade Name	Petrus Glycerol Suppositories BP 0.7 g for Infants (glycerine) Glycerol B.P. Liquid (Perrigo Australia)
Presentation	Suppositories – Petrus suppository infant size glycerol 0.7 g in a 1 g suppository (also contains gelatine and water) Liquid – Glycerol B.P. 100 mL bottle. Contains 100% w/w glycerol.
Dosage / Interval	Glycerine suppository – sliver. Glycerol liquid – 0.2 mL of diluted 80% glycerol*. ⁷ *Refer to maximum daily dose section and evidence summary for alternate dose and strength. ⁵
Maximum daily dose	Dose of 1 mL/kg of 1:4 diluted glycerol at 12–24 hour intervals has been used. ⁵
Route	PR
Preparation/Dilution	Glycerine suppository – cut a small sliver Glycerol liquid enema – Pharmacy to dilute 80 mL of 100% glycerol with 20 mL of sterile water to prepare a 80% v/v liquid glycerol. ⁷
Administration	Glycerine suppository – gently insert the sliver fully into the rectum. Glycerol liquid – draw 0.3 mL of diluted 80% glycerol into a 1 mL syringe. Attach Clot Catcher and prime with the solution. Insert 1–2 cm of Clot Catcher through anus and administer 0.2 mL.
	
Monitoring	Stool output
Contraindications	Dehydration, rectal bleeding
Precautions	Congenital gastrointestinal conditions – to discuss with surgeon prior to prescription. Major cardiac defects (risk of fluid shift)
Drug Interactions	
Adverse Reactions	Diarrhoea, rectal irritation, bleeding per rectum (from insertion of the syringe), abdominal pain
Compatibility	Not applicable
Incompatibility	Not applicable
Stability	Glycerol liquid preparation – 30 days expiry after pharmacy preparation.
Storage	Diluted glycerol liquid preparation – keep it refrigerated. ⁷ Glycerine suppository – keep it at room temperature.
Special Comments	Glycerol is the pure compound CAS Number 56-81-5 while glycerine (Australian/British spelling) or glycerin (US spelling) refers to products that contain varying amounts of glycerol.
Evidence summary	Refer to full version.
References	Refer to full version.

Original version Date: 20/05/2019	Author: S Bolisetty
Current Version number: 1.0	Current Version Date: 20/05/2019
Risk Rating: Low	Due for Review: 20/05/2024

Glycerol (Glycerine)

Newborn use only

2019

Approval by: As per Local policy	Approval Date:
Authors Contribution	
Original author/s	Srinivas Bolisetty
Evidence review	David Osborn
Nursing Review	Eszter Jozsa
Pharmacy Review	Lily Byun, Carmen Burman, Michelle Jenkins
ANMF Group contributors	Nilkant Phad, Himanshu Popat
Final editing and review of the original	Ian Whyte
Electronic version	Cindy Chen, Ian Callander
Facilitator	Srinivas Bolisetty