

Tips

Care should be taken when using Arachis Oil BP to ensure that the patient does not have any nut allergies. If this is not known, it would be safest to use Liquid Paraffin BP.

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The weight of the evaporating basin will be needed for the final adjustment of the weight of the product. An excess of water is used to allow for evaporation and, in addition, the use of excess water aids the dissolution of the Gelatin BP.

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Stir gently and not too vigorously to prevent the incorporation of air bubbles.

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This glycerol-gelatin base is used as a carrier base for other medicaments in some instances.

Water-soluble thermolabile ingredients are dissolved in a little water before being added to the molten mass.

Insoluble substances are rubbed down on the tile with a little of the Glycerol BP (Glycerol BP and not the base is used as it is difficult to remelt solidified base).

Gelatin BP may be contaminated with pathogenic microorganisms because of its origin. Pharmaceutical-grade gelatin should be pathogen-free, but as an added precaution, when used for pessaries the base may be heat-treated by steam at a temperature of 100°C for 1 hour (this is prior to making up to weight and prior to the addition of any thermolabile ingredients).

Patients with strict religious beliefs and vegetarians may object to the use of animal gelatin (although animal-free gelatin may be available).

Method of preparation of Glycerin Suppositories BP

1. Prepare the mould by lubricating it with either Arachis Oil BP or Liquid Paraffin BP.
 2. Weigh approximately 10 g of purified water and place in a previously weighed evaporating basin.
 3. Weigh 17.5 g of Glycerol BP on a Class II or electronic balance and place in an evaporating basin.
 4. Heat the Glycerol BP over a water bath to 100°C.
 5. Weigh 3.5 g Gelatin BP on a Class II or electronic balance.
 6. Heat the water to boiling point in a tared beaker.
 7. Remove from the heat (to prevent excess evaporation).
 8. Add the Gelatin BP powder to the water and stir to dissolve.
 9. Add the hot Glycerol BP to the solution and stir until homogeneous.
 10. Adjust the weight by adding sufficient hot water or by evaporation of any excess water.
 11. Pour the mass into the mould, taking care not to overfill as the base does not contract upon cooling.
 12. Leave to cool then remove from the mould, wrap, pack and label.
- 5. Choice of container**
- Once manufactured, the suppositories should be individually wrapped in foil and placed in an ointment jar. Alternatively, the suppositories could be made in a disposable mould, which can be labelled and dispensed directly to the patient.
- 6. Labelling considerations**
- a. Title**
- The product is official, therefore the following title would be suitable: 'Glycerol Suppositories BP (2 g)'.
- The '(2 g)' could be added to the title to indicate the size of the Glycerol