519FM.4 PRESCRIPTION, PREPARATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF GAVISCON INFANT®

Target Audience: Healthcare Professionals working in Paediatric and Neonatal Settings

Presentation

Sachet of dry powder for reconstitution.

Licensed use

Gaviscon Infant® helps to prevent gastric regurgitation in infants where competence of the cardiac sphincter has not been fully established.

The indications for use are gastric regurgitation, gastro-oesophageal reflux and reflux associated with hiatus hernia in infants and young children.

Note: It is not currently recommended by the manufacturer for use in babies under the age of 1 year, particularly premature babies unless they are under strict medical supervision/on recommendation by a consultant.

Dose and prescribing

Gaviscon Infant® should only be prescribed for babies who have a very convincing relationship between administration of feeds and symptoms of reflux. Care should be taken when prescribing for premature babies.

Gaviscon Infant® should be prescribed in the PRN section of the drug chart. It should be prescribed as "Gaviscon Infant as per protocol". Maximum 6 times daily.

Neonates to 2 years:

- Under 4.5 kg – one dose (HALF a dual sachet) administered as detailed below
- Over 4.5 kg – two doses (ONE dual sachet) administered as detailed below

Note: It should not be administered more than **six times in 24 hours**.

Reconstitution and administration

As the powder is sterile the sachet should not be opened until immediately before mixing. It should be mixed with milk or water immediately before administering.

To aid compliance, if required, half of the prescribed dose can be administered before the feed and the remaining half after the feed.

Breastfed babies:

Add 5 ml of cooled, boiled (or sterile) water to the powder (as per dose outlined above) in a glass, mix to a smooth paste, add another 10 ml of the water and mix. Give after each feed using a spoon, feeding bottle or oral syringe.

Bottle fed babies:

Under 4.5 kg - one dose to be mixed in a minimum of 115 ml of each feed in the bottle and shaken well (if taking this minimum volume).

If not taking this minimum volume[1]: Add 5 ml of cooled, boiled (or sterile) water to the powder from ONE unit dose sachet in a glass, mix to a smooth paste. Add 1 ml of this thin paste to each 25 ml of formula milk as outlined in the proportions below.

Feed Volume	Amount of Solution Required
10 ml	0.4 ml
20 ml	0.8 ml
25 ml	1 ml
30 ml	1.2 ml
40 ml	1.6 ml
50 ml	2 ml
60 ml	2.4 ml
70 ml	2.8 ml
80 ml	3.2 ml
90 ml	3.6 ml
100 ml	4 ml
110 ml	4.4 ml

Note: *If a baby is being fed more than six times a day (e.g. every two hours) Gaviscon Infant® should still be given every 4 hours to a maximum of SIX times a day. The amount of Gaviscon Infant® required should be based on the ACTUAL feed volume to be given at that time.*

Bottle fed babies:

Over 4.5 kg - two doses to be mixed into not less than 225 ml of each feed in the bottle and shaken well.

Gaviscon Infant® should be made up fresh EACH time for the baby. It should not be stored in the fridge as a pre-prepared solution. This method of preparation is not recommended by the manufacturer as it does not contain preservatives.

Babies on continuous milk feeds (CMF):

Gaviscon Infant® should NOT be added to milk feeds used for CMF as it does not contain preservatives. When changing the syringes containing the milk feeds, give the appropriate dose as per "BREASTFED" infants as outlined above using an oral syringe.

Note: *The maximum frequency is SIX times daily, for bigger babies the syringes may be changed more frequently than this. In this case give Gaviscon Infant® every 4 hours or when possible to a maximum of SIX times daily.*

Precautions and monitoring

- Gaviscon Infant® can cause hypernatraemia, therefore sodium levels should be monitored closely.
- Dosage instructions should be followed closely to avoid excessive amounts being administered and increasing the risk of hypernatraemia.
- It should not be used with thickening agents or infant milk preparations containing a thickening agent, as this could lead to over-thickening of the stomach contents.
- The mode of action of Gaviscon Infant® is physical, resulting in a thickening of the gastric contents. An excessive concentration of Gaviscon Infant® may lead to gastric distension.
- Significant or sustained changes in bowel habit or stool consistency, e.g. diarrhoea or constipation, should be investigated.
- Manufacturer recommends Gaviscon Infant® not to be used in infants with known or suspected impairment of renal function, as the sodium content may add to the risk of hypernatraemia.

Information for parents

Parents should be educated about making up and administering Gaviscon Infant® prior to discharge.

The following patient information leaflet provides parents with further information:
Gaviscon for gastro-oesophageal reflux disease – Medicines For Children

References

1. Summary of Product Characteristics for Gaviscon Infant® Gaviscon Infant - Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) - electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC)
   (last updated 5th March 2020, last accessed 11/07/2023)
2. British National Formulary for children (BNFc) online. Gaviscon Infant. Current version
3. Medicines for Children. Gaviscon for gastro-oesophageal reflux disease. Current version
4. Sean B. Ainsworth 2020 Neonatal Formulary: Drug Use in Pregnancy and the First Year of Life, 8th Edition WILEY Blackwell, BMJ books p 74-76

See also:
Guideline 816 Gastro-oesophageal Reflux Disease (GORD) in Children and Young People

Title of Guideline	Prescription, preparation and administration of Gaviscon Infant®
Guideline Number	519FM
Version	4
Effective Date	September 2023
Review Date	September 2026
Equality Impact Assessment	13th July 2023
Approvals:	
Paediatric Information and Guidelines Group	13th July 2023
Paediatric Governance	11th July 2023
Medicines Check (Pharmacy)	12th July 2023
Reviewer/s	Preya Varia, Pharmacy
SDU(s)/Department(s) responsible for updating the guideline	Paediatrics Pharmacy
Uploaded to Intranet	20th September 2023
Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	