

Avolose[®]

Lactulose

COMPOSITION:

Avolose[®] 100 ml: Each 5 ml concentrated oral solution contains lactulose USP 3.35 gm.

Avolose[®] 200 ml: Each 5 ml concentrated oral solution contains lactulose USP 3.35 gm.

PHARMACOLOGY:

Lactulose is a disaccharide, which is not hydrolyzed in the small intestine. Therefore it can not be absorbed and is transported to the colon with water to retain the osmotic balance. It provides a natural substrate for the saccharolytic bacterial flora in the colon. In the colon, several species of bacteria can hydrolyze Lactulose to the monosaccharides galactose and fructose. By encouraging this normal metabolic activity of the bacteria, the osmotic pressure of the colonic contents is doubled and more water is drawn into the bowel. Further metabolism of the monosaccharides leads to the production of acetic acids and the subsequent lowering of colonic pH. This acidification of the colonic contents is considered to be the main reason for the effectiveness of Lactulose solution. In chronic portal systemic encephalopathy it may be associated with the decrease in the relative concentration of free ammonia, the major agent involved in the cerebral disturbance.

INDICATION:

1. Constipation.

2. Hepatic encephalopathy (Portal systemic encephalopathy): Hepatic coma

DOSE & ADMINISTRATION:

Constipation: Initially Avolose solution may be given twice daily. In due course the dose should be adjusted according to the needs of the individual, but the following serves as a guide- Starting dose: Adults (including the elderly) - 15 ml twice daily. Children: 5 to 10 years - 10 ml twice daily. Children under 5 years - 5 ml twice daily. Babies under 1 year - 2.5 ml twice daily. Avolose[®] solution may, if necessary, be taken with water, fruit juice etc. Hepatic encephalopathy: Adults (including the elderly): Initially 30-50 ml three times a day. Subsequently adjust the dose to produce two or three soft stools each day. Children: No dosage recommended for this indication. Because of Lactulose's physiological mode of action it may take up to 48 hours before effects are obtained. However, clinical experience has shown that this medicament does exhibit a 'carry-over' effect, which may enable the patient to reduce the dose gradually over a period of time. A maintenance dose of 15 ml per day provides only 14 kilocalories and is therefore, unlikely to adversely affect diabetic patients.

CONTRA-INDICATION:

Galactosaemia in common with other preparations used for the treatment of constipation, Lactulose should not be used when there is evidence of gastro-intestinal obstruction.

WARNING AND PRECAUTION:

Caution should be exercised in patients with history of diabetes or who require a low-lactose diet, during pregnancy and breast feeding.

SIDE EFFECTS:

During the first few days of treatment, meteorism and increased flatulence may occur. These symptoms usually disappear under continued therapy. Diarrhoea may occur especially when used higher dosages, e.g. during treatment of portal systemic encephalopathy. Dosage should then be adjusted to obtain two or three formed stools per day.

USE IN PREGNANCY & LACTATION:

Wide clinical experience, together with data from animal reproduction studies has not revealed any increase in embryotoxic hazard to the foetus if used in the recommended dosage during pregnancy. If laxative therapy is needed in pregnancy, use of this drug is acceptable.

USE IN CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS:

Very little information on the use of Lactulose in young children and adolescents has been recorded. On the basis of information available, the recommended initial daily oral dose in infants is 2.5 mL to 10 mL in divided doses. For older children and adolescents the total daily dose is 40 mL to 90 mL. If the initial dose causes diarrhea, the dose should be reduced immediately. If diarrhea persists, Lactulose should be discontinued.

DRUG INTERACTION:

There may be other drugs that can interact with lactulose. Tell your doctor about all medications you use. This includes prescription, over-the-counter, vitamin, and herbal products. Do not start a new medication without telling your doctor.

OVERDOSE:

Overdose symptoms may include confusion, uneven heart rate, extreme thirst, increased urination, leg discomfort, and muscle weakness or limp feeling.

STORAGE:

Store in a dry and cool place below 30° C temperature and keep away from light and moisture. Keep out of reach of children. After the first opening use within 28 days.

PACKING:

Avolose[®] 100 ml : Each bottle contains 100 ml concentrated oral solution with a measuring cup.

Avolose[®] 200 ml : Each bottle contains 200 ml concentrated oral solution with a measuring cup.