

SOFLAX

Solution

Composition

Each 100mL of the solution contains:

Lactulose	67g
Galactose	less than 11g
Lactose	less than 6g

Properties

Lactulose, the essential constituent of **SOFLAX**, is a semi-synthetic disaccharide having a hyperosmotic laxative effect. Following oral administration, lactulose is not absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract. It passes essentially unchanged into the large bowel where it is broken down by saccharolytic bacteria into simple organic acids (mainly lactic acid and small amounts of acetic and formic acids) which exert a local osmotic effect in the colon. This in turn causes an increase in water content of the stool and consequently results in increased faecal bulk, stimulation of peristalsis, and finally bowel evacuation.

As **SOFLAX** exerts its laxative effect when it reaches the colon, it may take up to 48 hours before normal defaecation occurs.

When larger doses are given, the pH in the colon is significantly reduced by acid production. This low pH discourages the proliferation of ammonia-producing organisms and consequently the absorption of ammonium ions and other toxic nitrogenous compounds is decreased leading to a fall in blood-ammonia concentration. **SOFLAX** is therefore useful in the treatment of hepatic encephalopathy.

Indications

SOFLAX is indicated for:

- Treatment of constipation in adults and children.
- Prevention and treatment of hepatic encephalopathy (portal-systemic encephalopathy), including the stages of hepatic pre-coma and coma.

Dosage

• Constipation

Adults and children above 10 years:

Initially 15mL twice daily, then the dose is to be adjusted according to patient's need.

Children of 10 years and below:

5 - 10 years: 10mL twice daily.

1 - 5 years: 5mL twice daily.

Below 1 year: 2.5mL twice daily.

• Hepatic encephalopathy

Initially 30-50mL three times daily, then the dose is to be adjusted to produce 2 - 3 soft stools daily.

Contraindications

Lactulose should not be used for patients who require a low galactose diet (galactosaemia) as well as for those with intestinal obstruction.

Precautions

As a general rule for all laxatives, it should not be given to young children (up to 6 years of age) unless prescribed by a physician. Since children are not usually able to describe their symptoms precisely, proper diagnosis should precede the use of a laxative.

It should be used with care in patients with lactose intolerance or in diabetic patients because of the presence of some free galactose and lactose in the preparation.

Side Effects

SOFLAX is generally well tolerated. Less frequently, some adverse reactions have been experienced during the first few days of treatment but usually disappear upon continued treatment. These include flatulence, cramps, and abdominal discomfort.

Presentation

SOFLAX solution: Bottle of 200mL.

* Store at a temperature of 15 - 25°C. Do not freeze.