Medicines and tube feeding formula

Michelle M. Romano, RD, LD/N, CNSC
June 24, 2014
What we’re going to review

• Administering medications through feeding tubes
• Interactions with tube feedings and medicines.
• Disclaimer: you should consult your pharmacist, physician, dietitian or nurse for specific information about the medication that you take.
Goals

- You receive the right amount of medication safely
- No interaction with other medication and tube feeding
- No clogged feeding tube.
Points to remember

• Tell all of your doctors and pharmacist what medicines, vitamin and mineral supplements and herbals you take
• Take your medicines as directed
• Wash your hands before preparing medicines
Medicine forms

- Solids (capsules, tablets, powders, solutabs)
  - Tablets and capsules are immediate release OR
  - Modified release
    - Delayed-release
    - Extended-release
Medicine forms

• Liquids
  • solutions, elixirs, suspension
  • “viscosity” – thick liquid
  • “osmolality” concentration of ingredients
  • Other “active” ingredients-- sorbitol
Taking medicine on empty stomach

1-2 hours before feeding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bumex</th>
<th>Carafate</th>
<th>Dyazide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erythrocine</td>
<td>Lorabid</td>
<td>Hismanol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lasix ?</td>
<td>Penicillin &amp; derivatives</td>
<td>Zithromax</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tetracyline</td>
<td>Fosamax</td>
<td>Isoniazide (INH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ciprofloxacin</td>
<td>Actonel</td>
<td>Boniva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydralazine</td>
<td>Itraconazole</td>
<td>Levaquin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinemet</td>
<td>Voriconazole</td>
<td>Warfarin (Coumadin) ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthroid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wait 1-2 hours after giving medicine to restart tube feedings
Specific medications

• **Cipro** (ciprofloxacin)
  • May have reduced absorption in small intestine

• **Tegretol** (carbamazepine)
  • Reduced absorption in small intestine feedings due to reduced acid exposure.

• **Dilantin** (phenytoin)
  • Do not use opened capsule
  • Decreased absorption when given with tube feeding. Hold feedings 1-2 hours before and after

• **Coumadin** (warfarin)
  • Flush well; may stick to tube

• Antacids- not effective if given in small intestine
Gastric and intestinal tube delivery

• Do not mix with tube feedings
  • May be incompatible – curdling
  • May stick to feeding set
  • Feedings held for unplanned reasons
• Do not crush/mix with other medicines
  • Changes the stability of the medicine
• Follow directions if to “take on empty stomach”
  • Holding feeding time varies.
Supplies

• 60 ml or larger syringe that fits your feeding tube
• 2 cups or more of warm or room temperature water (use sterile water if prescribed by your doctor)
• Measuring cup or medicine cup divided into milliliters
• Measuring medicine spoon or syringe with milliliter markings.
conversions

- 1 teaspoon = 5 milliliters (mL)
- 1 Tablespoon = 15 milliliters (mL)
- 1 ounce = 30 milliliters (mL)
Liquid medications

- Measure in medicine cup or spoon
- May need to be diluted with water due to viscosity or osmolality (1 part medicine to 4-5 parts water)
- Avoid giving contents of liquid-filled capsules
Crushing medication

• Grind tables or capsule contents to a fine powder and mix with at least 10-15 mL of water

• Let mixture sit for 2 min. Prior to instilling to allow time to dissolve.
Do not crush

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Abbreviation</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EC, EN</td>
<td>Enteric coat</td>
<td>Entocort EC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SR (DM, DMX)</td>
<td>Sustained release</td>
<td>Cardene SR, OromorphSR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ER, XR, XL, XT, LA, PD</td>
<td>Extended Release</td>
<td>Adderall XR, Depakote ER, Flagyl ER, Glucophage XR, Procardia XL</td>
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<tr>
<td>CD</td>
<td>Controlled delivery</td>
<td>Dilt-­‐CD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR</td>
<td>Controlled release</td>
<td>Paxil CR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: some medicines do not use “abbreviations” so always best to check with your Pharmacist
Administration

• Flush before, Flush between, Flush after
  • At least 15 ml before, between, after
  • Peds: at least 5 ml if fluid not restricted

• Give meds right after crushing or diluting

• Give meds one at a time

• Attach syringe to tube and apply gentle pressure with piston
Tube clog
Questions?