



Rectal Wash-outs

Post-Operative Instructions

Why does my child need a rectal wash-out?

The purpose of rectal wash-outs is to remove stool and gas from the bowel using small amounts of normal saline until the bowel is clean.

What equipment will I need for a rectal wash-out?

- Toumy® Syringes (60cc catheter tip)
- Red Robinson® All-Purpose Catheters, Size: 16, 18, 22, 24
- Normal saline (room temperature)
- Surgilube® or water soluble lubricant

How do I give my child a rectal wash-out?

1. Position the child on the left side if possible. An infant can be on his/her back with the legs in a frog position.
2. Coat the end of the catheter with a water-soluble lubricant.
3. Insert the catheter gently 2 to 4 inches into the rectum.
4. Fill the syringe with normal saline (the amount of saline solution will depend on your child's weight. You doctor will give you instructions for the specific amount)
5. Push the amount of saline into the rectum using the catheter and aspirate or pull the plunger of the syringe back.
6. Disconnect the syringe from the catheter and discard the saline.
7. Repeat 3 more times to ensure the irrigation is complete.

8. This process may need to be repeated multiple times per you're your provider will give you instructions on frequency and the number of days you will be giving your child this treatment.

When should I call the doctor?

Call us if you have any of the following signs or symptoms:

- Oral temperature over 100.5°F
- Vomiting or bloating

What is the contact information?

If you have any question, problems or concerns call the Pediatric Surgery clinic from 8-5:00pm Monday thru Friday, 734-764-4151. After 5:00pm or on the weekends if you have urgent issues call hospital paging at 734 936-4000 and ask the operator to page the Pediatric Surgeon "on call".

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by the University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by UMHS and for which UMHS does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition or your treatment plan.

Author: Erin Larowe

Reviewers: Jennifer Chamberlain, RN, BSN; Daniel Teitelbaum, MD

Patient Education by [University of Michigan Health System](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License](#). Last Revised 10/2013