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USING THE IRRIGATION PORT ON FECAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS FOR MEDICATION INSTILLATION

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Aim: Faecal management systems (FMSs) are used to assist to prevent pressure ulcers and dermatitis, avoid faecal wound contamination, and reduce transmission of infectious disease by environmental contamination with stool. These patients often have multiple comorbidities that precludes oral, gastric or nasogastric administration of medication that require intestinal mucosa for therapeutic results. Clinicians are often forced to remove the FMS for intrarectal administration of medications.

Methods: A retrospective review of 15 patients with a FMS* for wound management, pressure ulcer prevention or infectious disease control purposes who also required intrarectal medication to treat an underlying condition was performed. Medications with different viscosities and volumes were administered via the irrigation port with subsequent flushing of the dead space in the port and lumen to assure dose delivery to the intrarectal tissue.

Results: 42 doses of 4 different intrarectal medications and viscosities were instilled. Volumes ranged from 15 cc to 300 cc. All patients appeared to have achieved the intended therapeutic benefits of the medication (e.g. – lower potassium). There was no leakage of medication or stool around the device. The device remained in the rectum without expulsion.

Conclusion: The irrigation port on a FMS* can accommodate administration of medications with a range of viscosities and volumes without leakage or expulsion from the rectal vault and achieve the intended therapeutic intent of the medication. The FMS* objective to maintain skin integrity, prevent wound contamination or spread of infectious disease was not compromised.

*Flexi-Seal Signal™, Convatec, Skillman, New Jersey, USA