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| Hydrocortisone |
| Preparations listed in the Drug tariff**Hover the mouse over the £ sign for DT prices** | [**Part VIIIA (hover the mouse here for more info):**](#PartVIIIA) | **DT price** |
| Hydrocortisone 10mg, 20mg tablets | [**£**](#_Hydrocortisone) |
| Hydrocortisone 500mcg, 1mg, 2mg, 5mg granules in capsules for opening | [**£**](#_Hydrocortisone) |
| [**Part VIIIB (hover the mouse here for more info):**](#PartVIIIB) | **DT price** |
| Hydrocortisone 5mg/5ml oral suspension | [**£**](#_Hydrocortisone) |
| Hydrocortisone 10mg/5ml oral suspension | [**£**](#_Hydrocortisone) |
| Administration in swallowing difficulties |
| Hydrocortisone 10mg soluble tablets (Colonis Pharma, £37.50 for 30 tablets6) should be dissolved in at least 50ml water before taking1.Hydrocortisone granules in capsules should not be chewed. The capsule shell must not be swallowed but carefully opened as follows2:The capsule is held so that the printed strength is at the top, and tapped to ensure all the granules are in the lower half of the capsule. The bottom of the capsule is gently squeezed. The top of the capsule is twisted off. The granules are either poured directly onto the tongue or the granules are poured onto a spoon and then placed into the mouth. Make sure the capsule is tapped to ensure all granules are removed. Drink water or milk immediately after administration. If the granules are sprinkled onto a spoonful of soft food this should be given immediately (within 5 minutes). Do not add granules to liquid as this can result in less than the full dose being given, and may affect the taste masking which will allow the bitter taste of hydrocortisone to become apparent. |
| Administration in enteral feeding tube |
| Flush with 15ml water, place tablet in the barrel of the syringe with 10ml water and shake gently, flush. Rinse the syringe and flush. Flush the tube (unlicensed)3.Do not administer the contents of the hydrocortisone granules in capsules via nasogastric tube as there is a risk of nasogastric tube blockage2. |
| Comments |
| Colonis Pharma do not have information on administering the soluble tablets via a feeding tube3. |
| References1. Summary of Product Characteristics. Hydrocortisone 10mg soluble tablets (Colonis Pharma) last updated 22/3/2018 [www.medicines.org.uk](http://www.medicines.org.uk) date accessed 5 June 2019
2. Summary of Product Characteristics. Alkindi 1mg granules in capsules for opening (Diurnal) last updated 2/2019 [www.medicines.org.uk](http://www.medicines.org.uk) date accessed 17 July 2019
3. White R and Bradnam V. Handbook of Drug Administration via enteral feeding tubes. 3rd edition, 2015. Pharmaceutical Press
4. Email correspondence on file: Hydrocortisone soluble tablets. Colonis Pharma Medicines information. Received 17 May 2019
5. Drug Tariff June 2019 <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff> date accessed 13 June 2019
6. NHSBSA Dictionary of medicines and devices (dm+d) Hydrocortisone soluble tablets (30) price last updated 22/1/2019 <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/dictionary-medicines-and-devices-dmd> date accessed 17 July 2019
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| **Please note: full instructions should be provided to the person administering the medicine. This is guidance only and should not determine individualised care.** |
| Author: Vicki Kong, QIPP Programme Pharmacist, BHR CCGsApproved by BHR CCGs Area Prescribing sub-Committees: July 2019 |
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