

Focus on paediatrics in general practice : Duphalac.

Contributors

Duphar Laboratories

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**Focus on
paediatrics**
in general practice



duphalac[®]
lactulose

Paediatrics in general practice

the role of duphalac

Constipation during childhood is often a complication of some underlying disorder. Sometimes, as in cases of serious mental and physical abnormality, constipation must be treated as part of the long-term management of the young patient. In other children, where retention is caused by painful anal fissures or psychological problems, treatment is only required whilst dealing with the underlying condition. Thus, treatment may have to be given long-term or only until the underlying cause can be rectified.

The treatment of choice must be effective, free from side effects and palatable. Since traditional medication may lead to habituation and the necessity of taking increasing doses, it is obviously desirable to avoid the risk of creating a chronic 'laxative habit' at an early age.

A great deal of evidence indicates that Duphalac fully satisfies these criteria:-

Effectiveness

"It would seem that (Duphalac) is therefore the treatment of choice, not only on the grounds of efficiency and lack of side effects, but also in its acceptability and its lack of any habituating property in the constipated child. It would seem an excellent first choice in paediatric constipation."¹

Freedom from unwanted effects

"No side effects were noted in any of the children."²

Palatability

"It is especially satisfactory for use in children because of its palatability."²

Tolerance not a problem

"... use of the (Duphalac) syrup did not lead to development of patient tolerance. Thus, in contrast to other agents commonly used, it was not found necessary to increase dosage to maintain efficacy of the bowel regulating action of the medication."³

Non-habit forming

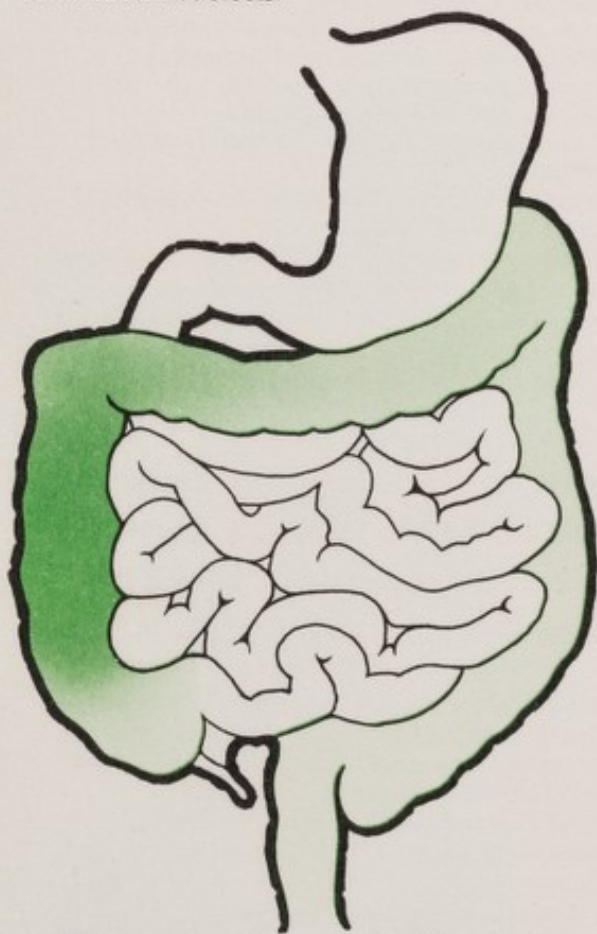
"Protracted administration (for 4 years) caused... no habit formation."⁴

Restoration of normal function

"After treatment was stopped there was a significant improvement in the bowel habit of Duphalac treated patients compared with the other group (laxatives) and this suggests that a return to normal bowel function is made easier by the use of Duphalac and that the 'laxative habit' is less likely to occur."⁵

The unique mode of action of duphalac

Lactulose is a synthetic disaccharide which, since there is no specific splitting enzyme, passes unchanged through the small intestine. It is only when it reaches the proximal colon that the colonic flora acts on it, producing simple organic substances, mainly lactates, believed necessary for normal bowel movement. These tend to retain water in the lumen of the bowel, causing an increase in stool volume and to restore normal physiological peristalsis. This results in a regular, controlled bowel action with soft well-formed stools.



duphalac[®]

lactulose

smooth efficient
faecal excretion

I am interested in Duphalac in Paediatrics.

Please send me further information

(Block letters or stamp please)

Name _____

Address _____

Signed _____



duphalac[®]

lactulose

Prescribing information

Presentation

A pleasantly flavoured syrup containing 3.35g lactulose per 5ml in easy-pour bottles of 300ml and 1 litre.

Indications

Duphalac is particularly suitable for cases in which maximum ease of defaecation is desirable.

For instance constipation associated with:

1. Paediatric conditions and problems such as anal fissure, spina bifida or psychological problems.
2. Pregnancy and the post-partum period.
3. Bedridden and geriatric patients.
4. Cardiac and hypertensive cases.
5. Surgical procedures, painful rectal and anal conditions.
6. Constipating drug therapy such as opiates.
7. Laxative dependence.
8. Barium retention following x-ray investigations.

Dosage and Administration

Initially Duphalac may be given twice daily. In due course the dose should be adjusted to the needs of the individual, but the following serves as a guide

Starting dose

Adults	15ml	Twice daily
Children 5 to 10 yrs	10ml	Twice daily
Children under 5 yrs	5ml	Twice daily
Babies	2.5ml	Twice daily

Since Duphalac is freely miscible, it can be mixed with a favourite drink such as milk, fruit juices or soda water. Because of its physiological mode of action, full effect may not be seen until 48 hours have elapsed.

Contra-indication

Galactosaemia.

NB. Because lactulose is not significantly absorbed it is unlikely to affect diabetics.

Side Effects

During the first few days of administration flatulence may occur, particularly at high dosage. This usually proves transient.

Product Licence Number 0512/5001

References

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