

AGIOLAX Madaus GmbH

Presentation

Manufacturer's packs of 250 g granules

Composition

100 g of the granules contains:

Plantaginis semen ovatae	52.0 g
Ispaghula husk	2.2 g
Sennae fructus angustifoliae	12.4 g

Mode of action

Agiolax gently regulates bowel function physiologically. The effect of Agiolax is based primarily on lubricant and absorbent agents of plant origin. To demonstrate the kinetics of the absorption process, the absorptive capacity of plantago seed was measured in terms of time. Agiolax in solution increased to seven times its original volume within approx. 90 minutes; after 2½ hours Agiolax in solution increased to eight times its original volume. The pharmaceutical processing of the plantago seeds and ispaghula husks into granules guarantees a speedy and thorough moistening in the intestine, which is necessary for the mechanism of action of Agiolax. Should it be used as a powder and not as a granule, the swelling process would begin too early as a result of its hygroscopic properties.

The swelling of the plantago seeds acts physically as a dilation stimulus on the sensitive receptors in the intestinal wall. This initiates a gastrocolic and ileocolic reflex. The dilation stimulus is assisted by the glucosides in the senna fruits, which increase the sensitivity of the receptors in the intestinal wall. An irritation of the intestinal mucosa cannot take place as the senna glucosides are incorporated into the mucilage, from which they are gradually released. Diarrhoea has not been noted when the recommended dosage is adhered to.

Even in the higher sections of the large intestine, the intestinal contents take on a stool-like character, owing to the indigestible hemicelluloses, which

explains the suitability of Agiolax as a stool forming agent in cases of anus praeternaturalis (one teaspoonful of Agiolax in the evening suffices).

No dependence occurs even when it is necessary for Agiolax to be taken over a long period of time.

As constipation is eliminated in a physiological manner no side-effects have been found or can be expected on the liver, stomach, kidneys, heart or blood circulation.

The following tests were undertaken 3 times during a treatment period of 12 months: differential blood count, ESR, Weltmann's coagulation band, thymol turbidity, residual-nitrogen, prostigmine test and gastric acid and diastase determinations. X-ray control of the stomach, intestines and gall-bladder showed no deviations from normal, which could be attributed to Agiolax therapy).

Indications

Constipation e.g. in patients confined to bed, in patients with haemorrhoids and anal fissures, after surgery and in preparation for radiological examination.

To be used during pregnancy and the lactation period only after consultation with a doctor.

Dosage recommendations and method of administration

Each teaspoonful of Agiolax should be swallowed unchewed with plenty of liquid (approx. 250 ml)

Unless otherwise directed the following dosage schedule is recommended for constipation:

Adults: 1 teaspoonful of Agiolax in the evening after the meal and if necessary in the morning before breakfast. In obstinate cases, 1 teaspoonful of Agiolax every 6 hours for 1-3 days.

Children: for school children, 1 teaspoonful of Agiolax daily, young people over 12 years of age may take the adult dose.

In preparation for radiological or endoscopic examinations:

A single dose of 3-6 teaspoonfuls of Agiolax on the day before examination.

Notes

On average, 5 g Agiolax (= 1 teaspoonful) contain 30 mg of potassium).

For diabetics:

1 teaspoonful \approx 0.9 g sucrose \approx 0.07 bread units.

Interactions with other medicaments

In cases of chronic use/abuse:

Owing to potassium deficiency, the potency of cardiac glucosides may be enhanced.

Side effects

None known.

In cases of chronic use/abuse:

Loss of electrolytes, especially potassium, presence of albumin or blood in the urine (albuminuria and haematuria), pigmentary infiltration in the intestinal mucosa (melanosis coli), damage to the mesenteric plexus.