

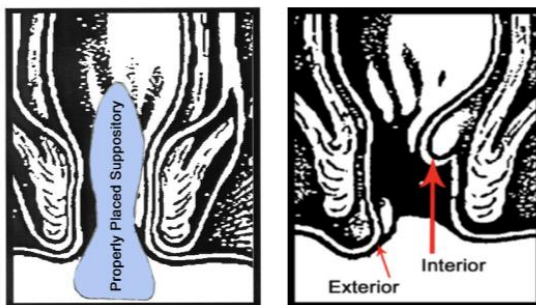


Patient Information Sheet- Rectal Rockets

Important Dosage and Administration Information:

⇒ **NEVER** insert entire rocket into anal cavity (see diagram below)

The Rectal Rocket has a contoured front end and a flared bottom, so it treats both internal and external hemorrhoids simultaneously. It treats internal hemorrhoids by remaining at the point of insertion; it does not lapse into the rectum. The flared bottom remains in continuous contact with the outer surface of the anus to treat external hemorrhoids.



Rectal rockets are similar to suppositories, but are intended to remain intact at the rectal opening up to 6 hours. The base of a rectal rocket is 50% of the total volume of your suppository, and not intended to melt completely. This is designed specifically to help the rectal rocket stay in place to deliver longer, more consistent, delivery of your compounded medication. **After the use of a rectal rocket, one should pass what looks like a skeleton, broken pieces of a rectal rocket, or a small, long, shaft. A rectal rocket will never fully dissolve by design.**

Medication: This compounded prescription contains hydrocortisone, a corticosteroid, and lidocaine, a local anesthetic. Some formulations contain nifedipine or nitroglycerin as a smooth muscle relaxant.

Dosage and Administration: Rectal rockets are similar to suppositories, a solid, fatty base designed to dissolve at body temperature, but are intended to remain intact at the rectal opening up to six hours (diagram below). Unwrap and run under warm water for 20-30 seconds before insertion. Use one rocket each night at bedtime for 3 to 5 nights. The “head” and “tail” may not dissolve completely, which is normal. Most forms are compounded into strengths of hydrocortisone 2.5-5% and lidocaine 2% – 5%. When added, nitroglycerin or nifedipine are 0.2% – 0.5%.

Use: This medication is often used to treat internal and external hemorrhoids. It provides the benefit of both an internal suppository and an external ointment, with the added advantage of increased contact time with the affected area.

Side Effects: Possible side effects include: temporary low blood pressure, rash, nausea, dizziness, and flushing. Itching or a tingling sensation at the site of application (rectal opening) is also possible. If the formulation includes nitroglycerin, headache is a common side effect, which usually occurs after the first dose and resolves in about 30 minutes.

Storage, Beyond Use Dating and Disposal: Rectal Rockets should be stored in the refrigerator (36°-46°F). The “Beyond Use Date” is the expiration date for compounded medicines. This compound is generally good for six months from the date dispensed, however, it is always best to refer to your medication’s label for specific storage requirements and beyond use dating. Search “How to Dispose of Unused Medicines” at www.fda.gov for info on medication destruction.

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