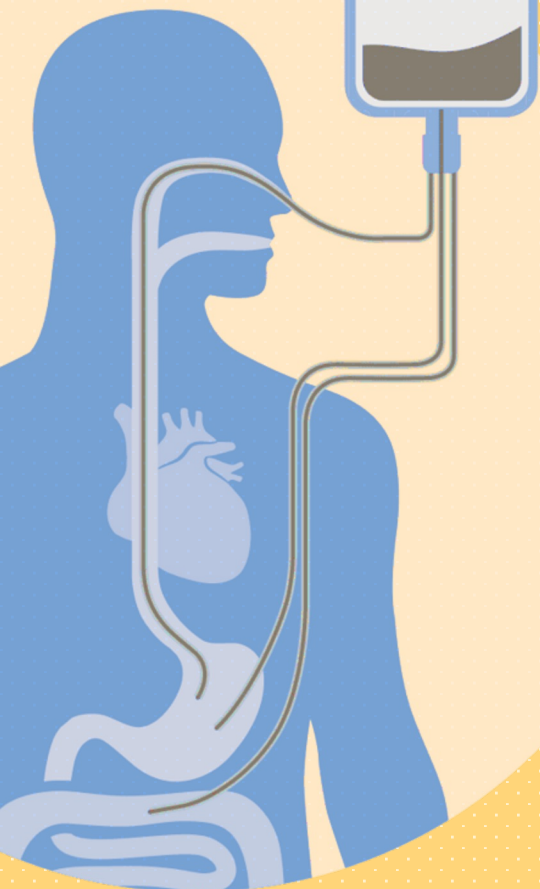


Optimizing Patient Care: Administering Psychotropic Medications via Enteral Route



Psychotropic medication users, including inpatient and outpatient individuals such as geriatrics, nursing home and intensive care unit patients, may require enteral feeding tubes (EFTs) when oral intake is inadequate or gastrointestinal tract access is limited.

The aim of this leaflet is to provide essential information and valuable resources specifically focused on psychotropics administered via the enteral route.

Administering drugs through an enteral route differs significantly (different drug absorption and bioavailability) from the intended oral dosage form.

Clinicians must be careful and conduct thorough research, follow best practices when ordering, preparing, and administering medications via an enteral route.

Potential Risks of Administration of Medication via the Enteral Route

- Errors in selecting the correct administration route.
- Accuracy in dosage measurement.
- Potential exposure of healthcare workers.
- Incorrectly crushing unsuitable formulations.
- Interactions with other medications, food, or nutritional products.

DO'S

- ✓ Use the appropriate oral, enteral, or catheter-tip syringes designed for administering oral enteral medicines, feeds, and flushes.
- ✓ Flush the tube before and after each medicine administration.
- ✓ Before administration, check the characteristics of each medicine intended for enteral administration.
- ✓ Be aware of excipients; drugs do not consist solely of active ingredients (e.g., sorbitol, sodium, carbon dioxide).
- ✓ If available, therapeutic drug monitoring (psychotropic drugs have narrow therapeutic ranges) and evaluation of the clinical response should be done. AGNP guidance on TDM in Neuropsychopharmacology can guide!

DONT'S

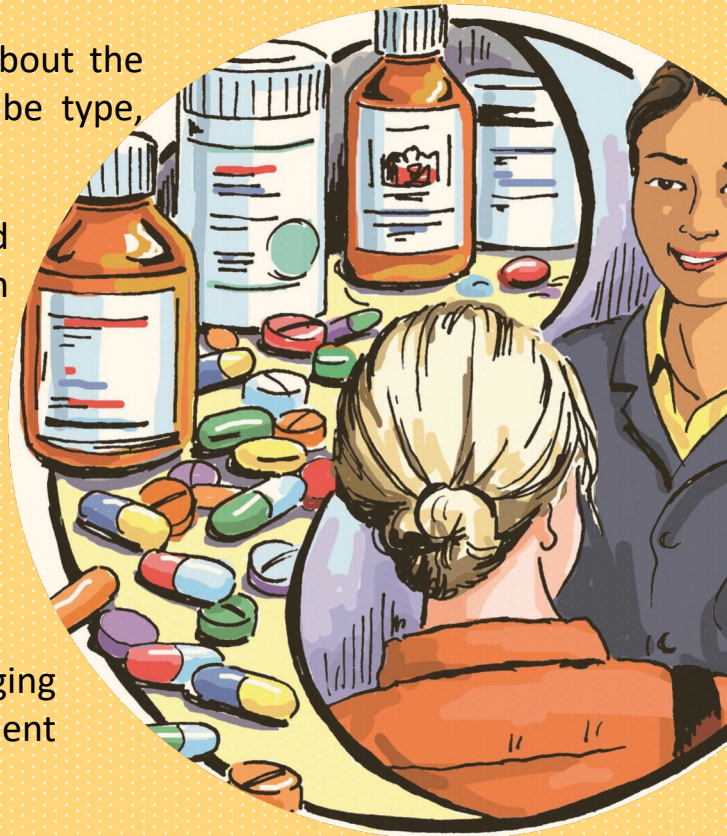
Avoid over-hydrating the patient during drug administration.

Do not crush enteric-coated tablets or modified-release tablets, and refrain from administering them through feeding tubes.

Do not use three-way taps and adapters that connect with parenteral devices for enteral administration.

What are the key responsibilities of clinical pharmacists?

- Access comprehensive information about the drug, patient's condition, feeding tube type, and enteral feed regimen.
- Assimilate information to recommend suitable formulations of medication for enteral administration.
- Provide essential information to healthcare team to prevent unnecessary tablet crushing or improper dosage forms administration.
- Ensure bioequivalence when changing formulations to prevent treatment failure or toxicity.
- Pharmacists should actively participate in a multidisciplinary team and maintain regular communication with other health professionals involved in the patient's care.



Specific guidelines for psychotropic medicines via the enteral route are currently lacking. So, we've compiled a list of commonly used resources where you can find information about various medications.

Simply scan the QR code to access these resources. If you know of any helpful resources that you used in your country, please feel free to share them with us. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated.