

Dificlir™ ▼ (fidaxomicin): administration via nasogastric (NG) tubing

The recommended dose of fidaxomicin is 200 mg (one tablet) administered twice daily (once every 12 hours) for 10 days. Fidaxomicin is intended for oral administration and can be taken with or without food.¹ Fidaxomicin is not licensed for administration through NG tubing.

Subjects in fidaxomicin clinical trials were excluded if they were unable to take study medication by mouth, the study medications were not administered in any form (i.e., broken, crushed, chewed, or in any other vehicles) other than whole, intact.^{2,3} No information is available on the safety or efficacy of fidaxomicin tablets administered to patients unable to swallow a tablet whole i.e. when administered orally or via a NG tube as a crushed tablet.

Stability studies have however been undertaken that show that the crushed fidaxomicin tablet contents are stable for 2 hours when mixed in water and for 24 hours when mixed with apple sauce or Ensure®.⁴ Furthermore, 96.3% of the 200mg fidaxomicin dose in tablets was recovered following an *in vitro* simulation analysis of a crushed tablet-water mixture passage via a NG tube.⁵

Stability Tests in a NG tube simulation

In vitro testing has been performed to evaluate the amount of fidaxomicin recovered when a single crushed 200mg tablet was administered via a NG tube.⁵ Size 10 x45 inch French NG enteral feeding tubes with twin-port and stylet were utilized for the analysis. The experiment was replicated twice to obtain a total of three separate test samples. Aliquots of each of the three test samples following the experimental passage through the NG tubes were then analysed by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) to determine percent of fidaxomicin recovered. The percent of fidaxomicin recovered from the NG tube was compared to the labelled amount (200mg) in the commercially available DIFICLIR tablets. Results for each of the tests appear in Table 1. On average, 96.3% of the 200mg of fidaxomicin in tablets was recovered after administration through a NG tube across the three tests.⁵

Table 1: Fidaxomicin recovery percent as compared to 200mg tablets test⁵

| | Recovery Percent |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| NG Tube 1 | 98.4% |
| NG Tube 2 | 93.0% |
| NG Tube 3 | 97.4% |
| Average | 96.3% |

Please be advised that the information contained within this letter is outside the scope of the product licence, and is provided for your scientific information. This response is not intended to offer recommendations for administering Astellas products in a manner inconsistent with approved labelling. Please refer to the Summary of Product Characteristics for full prescribing information.

¹ Dificlir Summary of Product Characteristics March 2012

² Louie TJ et al. Fidaxomicin versus vancomycin for *Clostridium difficile* infection. N Engl J Med 2011; 364:422-431

³ Cornely OA et al. Fidaxomicin versus vancomycin for infection with *Clostridium difficile* in Europe, Canada, and the USA: a double-blind, non-inferiority, randomised controlled trial. Lancet Infect Dis 2012; 12(4):281-9

⁴ Data on File, Astellas Pharma Europe Ltd, DOF AI/12/0002/EU, March 2012.

⁵ Data on file, Astellas Pharma Europe Ltd, DOF AI/12/0001/EU, March 2012.