**attapulgite**

- Children’s Kaopectate
- Fowler’s Anti-Diarrhea Tablets
- Fowler’s attapulgite oral suspension
- Kaopectate
- Kaopectate Extra Strength

**Classification**
Therapeutic: antidiarrheals
Pharmacologic: adsorbents

**Pregnancy Category B**

**Indications**
Adjunct in the symptomatic management of mild to moderate acute diarrhea.

**Action**
Appears to act by adsorbing bacteria and toxins and decreasing loss of water. Therapeutic Effects: Decreased number and water content of stools.

**Pharmacokinetics**
 Absorption: Action is local. Attapulgite is not absorbed.
 Distribution: Unknown.
 Metabolism and Excretion: Unknown.
 Half-life: Unknown.

**TIME/ACTION PROFILE (antidiarrheal effect)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROUTE</th>
<th>ONSET</th>
<th>PEAK</th>
<th>DURATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PO</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>unknown</td>
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**Contraindications/Precautions**
Contraindicated in:
- Hypersensitivity
- Severe dehydration
- Diarrhea that may be caused by parasites
- Dysentery

Use Cautionally in:
- Pedi: Geri: Children or geriatric patients have increased risk of dehydration

**Adverse Reactions/Side Effects**
GI: constipation.

**Interactions**

**Drug-Dye:** May decrease the gastrointestinal absorption of concurrently administered oral medications (administer 2–3 hr before or 2–4 hr after attapulgite).

**Route/Dosage**

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<tr>
<th>ROUTE</th>
<th>DOSAGE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PO</td>
<td>Adults: 1.2–3 g after each loose stool (not to exceed 9 g/24 hr).</td>
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<td>Children 6–12 yr: 600–1500 mg after each loose stool (not to exceed 4.5 g/24 hr).</td>
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<td>Children 3–6 yr: 300–750 mg after each loose stool (not to exceed 2.25 g/24 hr).</td>
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**NURSING IMPLICATIONS**

**Assessment**
- Assess the frequency and consistency of stools and bowel sounds before and throughout course of therapy.
- Assess fluid and electrolyte balance and skin turgor for dehydration.

**Potential Nursing Diagnoses**
- Diarrhea (Indications)
- Constipation (Side Effects)
- Deficient knowledge, related to medication regimen (Patient/Family Teaching)

**Implementation**
- Administer after each loose bowel movement until diarrhea is controlled.
- Do not administer other medications within 2–3 hr before or after attapulgite administration.
- PO: Shake suspension well before administration.

**Patient/Family Teaching**
- Instruct patient to notify health care professional if diarrhea persists longer than 48 hr or if fever or abdominal pain develops.
- Advise patient or parent to use attapulgite and to notify health care professional if stool contains blood or mucus or is accompanied by fever.

**Evaluation/Desired Outcomes**
- Decrease in frequency of loose stools.
- Return to soft, formed stools.

Why was this drug prescribed for your patient?