saliva substitutes (sa-ly-vah-sub-sti-too-茨)

Entertainers’ Secret, Moi-Stir, Mouthkote, Optimoist, Salivart, Salix

Classification
Therapeutic: saliva substitutes

Pregnancy Category UK

Indications
Management of dry mouth or throat, which may occur as a consequence of: Medications (tricyclic antidepressants, antihistamines, anticholinergics), Radiation therapy, Chemotherapy, Sjogren’s syndrome, Other illnesses, Emotional factors.

Action
Composition is similar to that of saliva. Contains electrolytes in a thickening agent (carboxymethylcellulose). Therapeutic Effects: Relief of dry mouth.

Pharmacokinetics
Absorption: Minimal with local administration; electrolytes may be minimally absorbed through oral mucosa or with swallowing.

Distribution: Action is primarily local.

Metabolism and Excretion: Unknown.

Half-life: Unknown.

TIME/ACTION PROFILE (relief of dry mouth)

ROUTE ONSET PEAK DURATION
PO application unknown unknown

Contraindications/Precautions
Contraindicated in: Hypersensitivity to carboxymethylcellulose, parabens, or other components.

Use Cautiously in: Situations in which absorption of electrolytes may compromise the patient’s condition, such as potassium and magnesium in patients with renal failure or sodium in patients with HF or hypertension.

Adverse Reactions/Side Effects

F and E: Excessive absorption of electrolytes.

Interactions

Drug-Drug: None significant.

Route/Dosage

PO (Adults): Spray or apply to oral mucosa as needed.

NURSING IMPLICATIONS

Assessment

● Assess patient for xerostomia (dry mouth) or dry throat before and periodically throughout therapy.

● Assess progress and oral mucosa for stomatitis.

Potential Nursing Diagnoses

● Impaired oral mucous membrane (indications)

Implementation

● Administer as necessary for xerostomia or dry throat.

Patient/Family Teaching

● Instruct patient to swish saliva substitute around in mouth after spray or application.

● Advise patient of the importance of good oral hygiene in addition to the use of saliva substitutes.

● Emphasize the importance of routine dental examinations throughout course of therapy.

Evaluation/Desired Outcomes

● Decrease in dry mouth and throat.

Why was this drug prescribed for your patient?