

Medical Safety Information

Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency

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Precautions in Handling of Glycerin Enemas

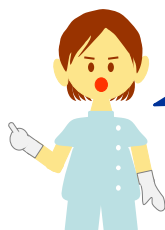
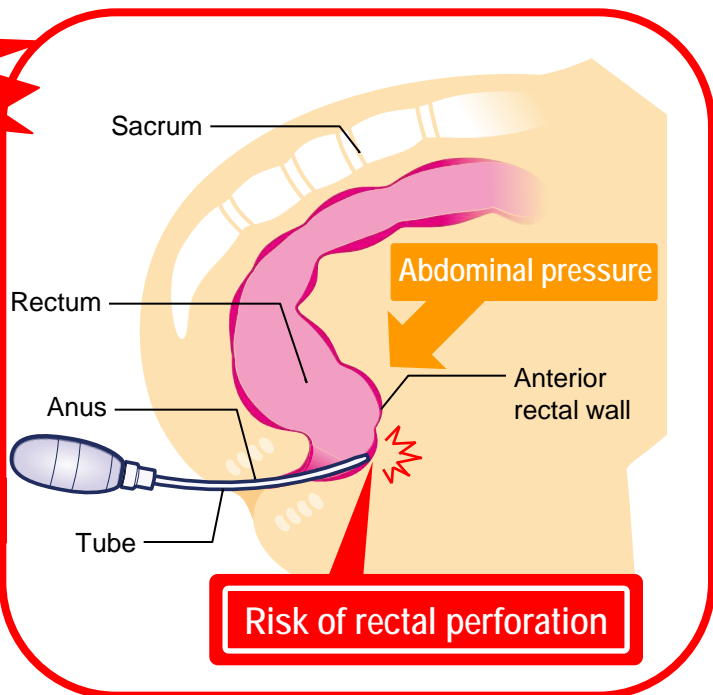
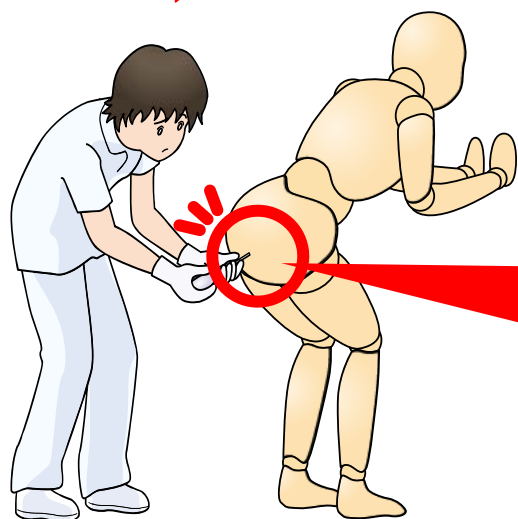
POINT Key points for safe use

(Case 1) When a glycerin enema was given to a patient as a pretest procedure in the standing position, the tip of the enema tube perforated the patient's rectum.

1 Precautions when giving an enema (1)

- Precaution should be exercised against the risk of rectal perforation, when giving an enema to a patient in the standing position.

Giving an enema in the standing position is dangerous!

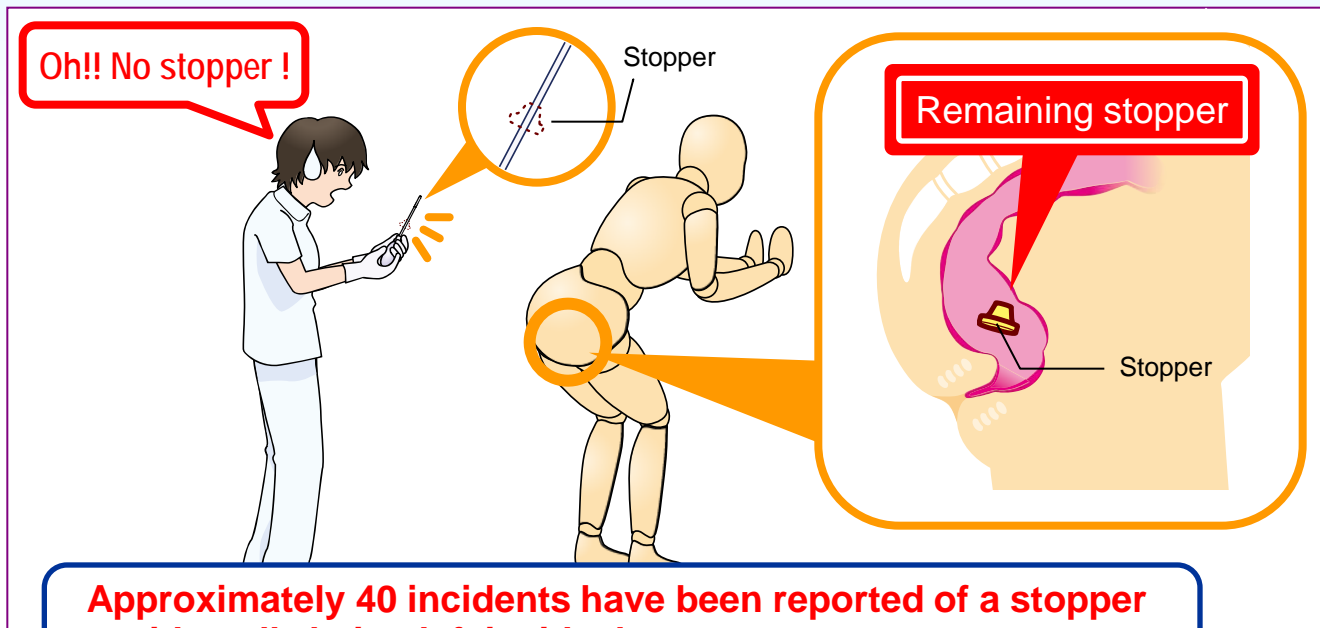


The standing position in particular puts pressure on the abdomen and makes the angle of the anterior rectal wall sharp, thereby making it easier for the tip of a tube to touch the anterior rectal wall and create a risk of perforation!
In addition, it is difficult to know the location of the anus in a patient in the standing position and therefore insertion of a tube may not be checked visually.

(Case 2) When a glycerin enema was given to a patient as a pretest procedure, a stopper was left inside the rectum.

2 Precautions when giving an enema (2)

- When giving an enema to a patient, make sure to check visually to avoid pushing the stopper into the rectum.



Approximately 40 incidents have been reported of a stopper accidentally being left inside the rectum.

When giving an enema, make sure to observe carefully to avoid pushing the stopper into the rectum.

Examples of glycerin enema with a stopper

Nichi-Iko Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.



GLYCERIN ENEMA "OHTA" 60 and the others

Kenei Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.



KENEI G ENEMA 50% and the others

Mune Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

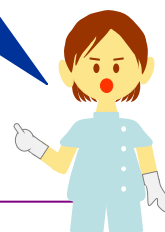


GLYCERIN ENEMA "MUNE" 60 and the others

Toho Yakuin Co., Ltd.



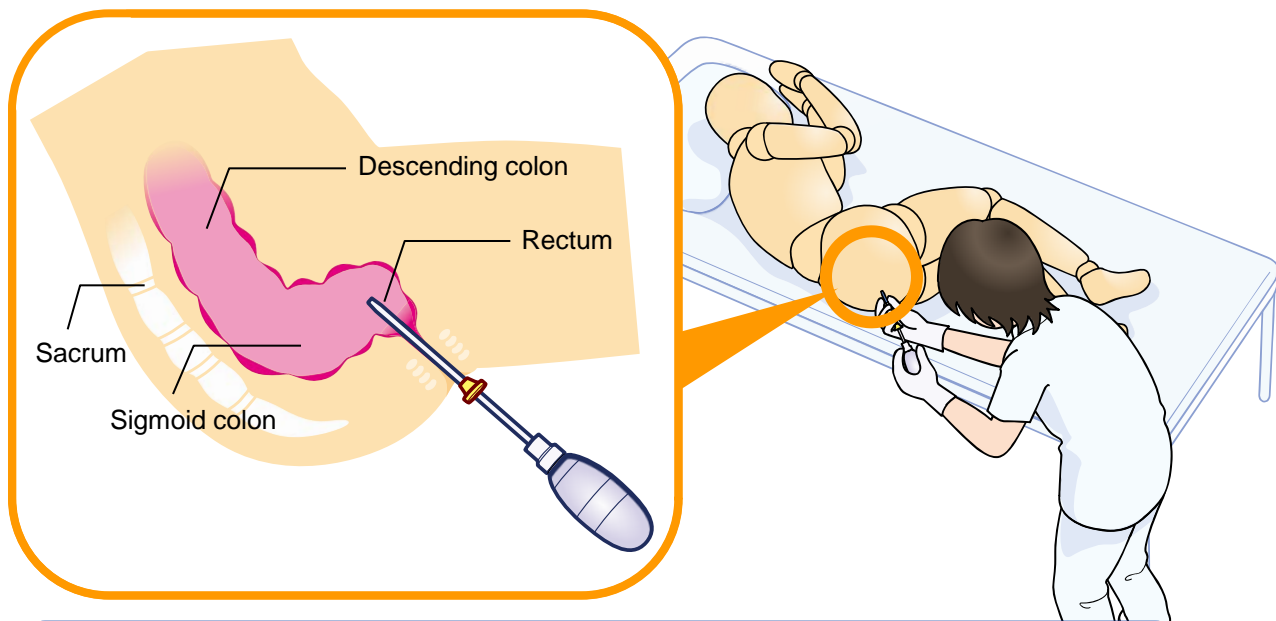
Glycerin Clyster Soln. 50% "TOHO" and the others



3 Patient's position when giving an enema

- Carefully give an enema to a patient in the left lateral position at all times only when it is possible.

Giving an enema to a patient in the left lateral position



The left lateral position is the most appropriate position for giving an enema because of the anatomical characteristics of the colon. Although the length of the tube to be inserted is designated as approximately 5-6 cm, **do not try to force it but pull it back slightly if any resistance is felt. (It may come in contact with the rectal wall!)**

- * The following organizations also release safety information concerning precautions in handling of glycerin enemas (in Japanese).
 - Medical Nursing Safety Information "Accidental Cases of Enema Given in the Standing Position (March 3, 2006)," Japanese Nursing Association
<http://www.nurse.or.jp/nursing/practice/anzen/anzenjoho.html>
 - Patient Safety Warning "No.6 Safe Administration of Glycerin Enemas (August 30, 2006)," Kanagawa Nursing Association
<http://www.kana-kango.or.jp/taisaku/index2.htm>

About this information

- * PMDA Medical Safety Information is issued by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency for the purpose of providing healthcare providers with clearer information from the perspective of promoting the safe use of pharmaceuticals and medical devices. The information presented here has been compiled, with the assistance of expert advice, from cases collected as Medical Accident Information Reports by the Japan Council for Quality Health Care, and collected as Adverse Drug Reaction and Malfunction Reports in accordance with the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law.
- * We have tried to ensure the accuracy of this information at the time of its compilation but do not guarantee its accuracy in the future.
- * This information is not intended to impose constraints on the discretion of healthcare professionals or to impose obligations and responsibility on them, but is provided as a support to promote the safe use of pharmaceuticals and medical devices by healthcare professionals.

