LACTULOSE SYRUP
Class: Ammonium Detoxicant; Laxative, Osmotic

Indications:
Prevention and treatment of portal-systemic encephalopathy (including hepatic precoma and coma); treatment of constipation.

Available dosage form in the hospital:
LACTULOSE SYRUP

Trade Names:

Dosage:
- Constipation: Oral: 10-20 g (15-30 mL) daily; may increase to 40 g (60 mL) daily if necessary.
- Prevention of portal systemic encephalopathy (PSE): Oral: 20-30 g (30-45 mL) 3-4 times/day; adjust dose every 1-2 days to produce 2-3 soft stools/day.
- Treatment of acute PSE:
  - Oral: 20-30 g (30-45 mL) every 1 hour to induce rapid laxation; reduce to 20-30 g (30-45 mL) 3-4 times/day after laxation is achieved titrate to produce 2-3 soft stools/day.
  - Rectal administration (retention enema): 200 g (300 mL) diluted with 700 mL of water or NS via rectal balloon catheter; retain for 30-60 minutes; may repeat every 4-6 hours; transition to oral treatment prior to discontinuing rectal administration.

Renal Impairment:
No dosage adjustment provided in manufacturer’s labeling.

Hepatic Impairment:
No dosage adjustment provided in manufacturer’s labeling.

Common side effect:
Endocrine & metabolic: Dehydration, hypernatremia, hypokalemia.
Gastrointestinal: Abdominal discomfort, abdominal distention, belching, cramping, diarrhea (excessive dose), flatulence, nausea, vomiting.

Pregnancy Risk Factor: B