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ACE

What Is an Antegrade Contenance Enema (ACE)?

An antegrade continence enema is a different way to give an enema. Enemas can help someone poop if they become constipated or have another problem moving their bowels.

The most common type of enema puts liquid directly into the rectum, the last part of the large intestine, to help release poop. It's simple to do and does not involve any kind of surgery. Because this type of enema starts at the end of the large intestine (also called the colon or bowel) rather than the beginning, it works backward from how we move our bowels naturally. Usually, poop (or feces or stool) moves from the start of the large intestine, through the colon to the rectum, and out of the body via the anus.

An antegrade (which means "forward moving") continence enema starts at the beginning of the large intestine, so poop moves out of the body more normally.

An ACE is helpful for kids who need long-term enema therapy. It lets them control their enemas through a tube that passes through the abdominal (belly) wall. Enema fluid and poop flow from the beginning of the colon to the end and comes out through the anus. Your child can sit on a toilet during the enema, so poop can be flushed normally.

What Are the Types of Antegrade Contenance Enemas?

The two types of antegrade continence enemas most often used for children are:

- an appendicostomy (also called Malone or MACE Procedure)
- a cecostomy

What Is an Appendicostomy (Malone or MACE Procedure)?

In this procedure, a surgeon creates a hole in the skin of the belly that connects to the appendix and leads to the colon. An appendicostomy lets the enema liquid go straight into the top of the colon and helps the fluid and poop flow out through the anus.

What Is a Cecostomy?

For a cecostomy, a surgeon creates a hole in the skin of the belly that opens directly into the cecum, the first part of the colon.

The surgeon places a tube into the hole. This tube is called a cecostomy tube, C-tube, or Chait tube. Enema fluid goes into a bag, then travels through tubing into the cecostomy. From the cecostomy tube, the fluid passes into the cecum, and the fluid and poop flow out through the anus.

How to perform an ACE?

1. Gather supplies.
2. Prepare the enema solution.
 - a. Pull it up into a syringe. OR
 - b. Pour it into an enema set or feeding bag.
3. If using an enema set or feeding bag, prime the tube.
4. Position your child on the toilet.
5. Lubricate the catheter and insert the catheter into the stoma.
6. Insert the tip of the enema or feeding bag or the syringe into the catheter.
7. Slowly give the solution.
8. Remove the catheter.
9. Wait for bowel movement.

When Should I Call the Doctor?

- Signs of infection at the site
 - Pain
 - Redness and warmth
 - Swelling
 - Fresh bleeding
 - Greenish drainage
 - Fever
- Leaking of poop or dark liquid.
- You can't insert the catheter.
- The cecostomy tube comes out.