

Nystatin to treat early voice prosthesis failure due to candida: Information for primary care

Voice prosthesis failure due to candida

Amongst the laryngectomy population who have undergone surgical voice restoration, a common cause of early voice prosthesis failure is candida colonisation of the device. Candida is detrimental to prosthesis function and can damage the trache-oesophageal tract.

Nystatin oral suspension for reducing voice prosthesis failure

Nystatin is regularly prescribed to treat candida infections of the oral cavity, oesophagus and intestinal tract. Evidence has shown that it can also effectively treat candida colonisation impacting on laryngectomy voice prosthesis lifespan. In patients with prior candida colonisation, ongoing Nystatin will be used long term, once daily applied to the prosthesis directly, to prevent future colonisation (see regimen detail below). Nystatin oral suspension is a licensed medicine, however the recommended regimen to treat or prevent candida colonisation in voice prostheses is "off-label". This use of Nystatin is in line with the [South East London Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee \(SEL IMOC\) formulary recommendation](#).

Patients with voice prostheses are seen in outpatient clinics by the Speech and Language Therapist, who might identify patients that would need treatment with Nystatin (i.e. patients with a current candida colonisation of their voice prosthesis). The Speech and Language Therapist would advise the patient on how to take the treatment as per the following regimen, and will write to their GP asking for the treatment to be prescribed.

Approved regimen for Nystatin oral suspension for candida colonisation of the voice prosthesis

For the first 14 days:

- 1ml (100,000 units) Nystatin oral suspension orally **four times** daily (equally spaced throughout the day)
- Held orally for a minimum of 30 seconds before swallowing
- The patient should have nothing orally (no food or drink) for 30-60 minutes afterwards to allow the medicine to stay in contact with the back of the voice prosthesis for longer
- Some patients may require repeat 14 day courses of oral nystatin four times daily within their treatment schedule should signs of infection appear. If required Speech and Language Therapy will request the GP to prescribe it.

Once daily from the start of treatment until advised otherwise by Speech and Language Therapy:

- After cleaning the voice prosthesis, a small amount of Nystatin is applied on a cleaning brush and brushed through the voice prosthesis
- Ongoing long term use is required to prevent future infection
- Treatment would be ceased if treatment is no longer required, or in the event of failure to increase prosthesis life time. Speech and Language Therapy will advise the GP with respect to when treatment can cease
- Please prescribe **3 x 30ml bottles** of Nystatin oral suspension for the patient on initiation, and then ongoing supplies, including any requests for oral active treatment courses, until directed to stop by the Speech and Language Therapy team.

Refer to the IMOC recommendation for further information

Contact us

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