

Antegrade Continence Enema (ACE)

What is it?

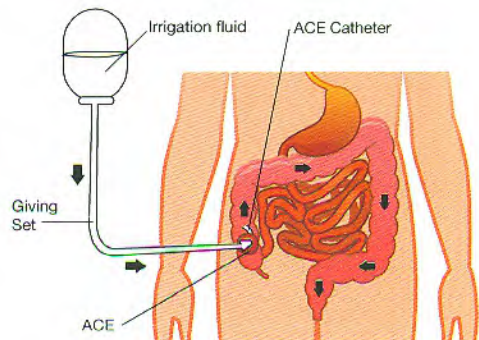
Also known as the Malone or Mace, the Antegrade Continence Enema (ACE) is a method of washing out the large bowel (colon and rectum) via a catheterisable tunnel between the abdominal (tummy) wall and the large bowel. Using this method on a regular basis will keep the large bowel empty, preventing constipation and soiling.

The technique was first developed by Mr P Malone in 1990.

The catheterisable tunnel is made from tissue within the body such as the appendix, small bowel or a 'special button' catheter. This is usually on the right hand side of the tummy, but may need to be placed on the left side depending on your child's condition.

After the operation to make the ACE stoma, a catheter is left in place for between 2 to 6 weeks to allow the ACE stoma opening to heal. Initially you may be asked to flush the catheter or button daily with 5-10mls of saline to prevent it from blocking. The washouts usually start 2-10 days after the operation. This will depend on the type of operation performed (open or keyhole) and your child's surgeon.

Picture of an Antegrade Continence Enema



Antegrade Continence Enema (ACE)

Equipment

- ▶ Prescribed catheter (if catheter not in place).
- ▶ Lubricating gel (if required).
- ▶ Irrigation set or syringes.
- ▶ Prescribed fluids.
- ▶ Measuring jug.

Procedure

- ▶ Measure and mix irrigation fluids, as prescribed, into the jug.
- ▶ The type and volumes of fluids required will depend on the child's weight and condition.



- ▶ The washout needs to be carried out in the bathroom with your child sitting in the correct toileting position.
- ▶ Pour fluid into the water holder, open clamp to allow the fluid to run through and expel the air. Alternatively, prepare the syringe.
- ▶ If the catheter is not in place, pass a lubricated catheter 4–6 cms into the ACE stoma opening. The parents or the child will be taught to pass the catheter by a specialist nurse once the initial catheter is removed.
- ▶ Connect tip of the irrigation set or syringe to the catheter.
- ▶ Open clamp and allow fluid to run in slowly. If the fluid leaks around the catheter, gently push the catheter further in until the leakage stops, or slow down the fluid rate.
- ▶ Once all the fluid has run in, close the clamp, remove irrigation set or syringe and catheter (unless initial catheter still in place).
- ▶ Your child will need to sit on the toilet for about 30–45 minutes to empty their bowels and allow the fluid to come out.
- ▶ Clean the irrigation set or syringe. Rinse thoroughly and hang up to dry.

Additional Information

- ▶ The ACE washout needs to be repeated on a regular basis. To prevent soiling it may be required daily, on alternate days, or every third day.
- ▶ To prevent the ACE stoma from closing or becoming narrow, an ACE stopper can be used. Otherwise a catheter must be inserted daily, even if the child is having alternate day washouts.

Problems following surgery may include:

Difficulty in passing the catheter

Pass catheter twice a day until it becomes easier, or leave the spigotted catheter in overnight. If this does not help, contact your specialist nurse.

Bleeding from ACE stoma opening

This is usually caused by local trauma when passing the catheter. If it does not stop spontaneously, seek medical advice.

Persistent leakage from ACE stoma opening

Seek medical advice, the ACE may need refashioning.

Boredom

Organise for the child to have something to play with while on the toilet.

Poor results and soiling between the washouts

Contact the specialist nurse, as there might be a build up of hard poo. Adjustment to the volume and type of fluids used or laxative medicines might be necessary.

Sore or weeping around the ACE stoma

Seek medical advice. If the area is infected, a course of antibiotics or prescribed topical cream may be required.

Pain during washouts

Stop washout for a few minutes until the pain subsides. Restart slowly. If pain is persistent at every washout contact the specialist nurse, as the fluids used may need adjusting.



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The washout equipment is available on prescription

Make

Item

Size

Order Number



ConvaTec

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PSNG

Paediatric Stoma Nurse Group