

Rectal Washout

A rectal washout is where the lower bowel is emptied and cleaned with the use of a catheter and saline solution.

It may be necessary for your baby to have a rectal washout because, at present, your baby is unable to empty their bowel adequately without help. Babies who are unable to empty their bowel completely are more prone to bowel infection and rectal washouts can help to prevent these problems as well enabling to feed and keeping them comfortable.

If your baby appears upset when preparing for a rectal washout a 'dummy', soft music or your voice may help to settle them. Choose to do the rectal washout when your baby is most relaxed, usually after a feed. If however, your baby continues to be distressed or appears to be in pain, stop the washout and contact your Stoma Care Nurse for advice.

Your surgeon will talk to you about this procedure for your baby/child. If necessary, a separate information sheet will be given to you, if you are required to do this at home.

