

Hydroxyethyl cellulose

Brand Name: Cellulose



Drug Description

Hydroxyethyl cellulose (HEC) is a nonionic, water-soluble polymer that can thicken, suspend, bind, emulsify, form films, stabilize, disperse, retain water, and provide protective colloid action.

[1]

HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

HEC is used as a non-active ingredient in the formulation of many vaginal microbicides. These microbicides are designed to prevent the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV. HEC has been used as a placebo gel in studies of HIV microbicides. The use of HEC as a "universal" placebo in HIV microbicide trials has been suggested and the safety of HEC is currently being evaluated.[2]

Clinical Trials

For information on clinical trials that involve Hydroxyethyl cellulose, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. In the Search box, enter: Hydroxyethyl cellulose AND HIV Infections.

Chemistry

CAS Name: Cellulose, 2-hydroxyethyl ether[3]

CAS Number: 9004-62-0[4]

Other Names

HEC[5]

Manufacturer Information

Hydroxyethyl cellulose
Union Carbide
A Subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Company
39 Old Ridgebury Road
Danbury, CT 06817-0001

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For More Information

Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health Information Specialist:

- Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET
- Via Live Help: http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET

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References

1. Union Carbide - Available at: <http://www.dow.com/ucarlatex/prod/cello/>. Accessed 10/20/03.
2. Communication - Correspondence with Dr. Lut Van Damme, CONRAD. October 2003.
3. USPD - 2003; p. 426
4. USPD - 2003; p. 426
5. Contraception - 2002 Nov;66(5):369-75.