

emulsions resembling light creams. They are water miscible and nongreasy.

Some commercial rectal foams use inserters. One such product, Proctofoam (Alaven Pharmaceuticals), contains pramoxine hydrochloride to relieve inflammatory anorectal disorders (Fig. 14.18).

FOAMS

A foam is an emulsion dosage form containing dispersed gas bubbles. When dispensed, it has a fluffy, semisolid consistency. Medicated foams are emulsions containing a dispersed phase of gas bubbles in a liquid continuous phase containing the active pharmaceutical ingredient. Medicated foams are packaged in pressurized containers or special dispensing devices and are intended for application to the skin or mucous membranes. The medicated foam is formed at the time of application. Surfactants are used to ensure the dispersion of the gas and the two phases. Medicated foams have a fluffy, semisolid consistency and can be formulated to break to a liquid quickly or to remain as foam to ensure prolonged contact. Medicated foams intended to treat severely injured skin or open wounds must be sterile.

PREPARATION OF FOAMS

A foam may contain one or more active pharmaceutical ingredients, surfactants, aqueous or nonaqueous liquids, and propellants. If the propellant is in the internal, or discontinuous, phase, a stable foam is discharged. If the propellant is in the external, or continuous, phase, a spray or a quick-breaking foam is discharged. Quick-breaking foams formulated with alcohol create a cooling sensation when applied to the skin and may have disinfectant properties.

Foams containing flammable components should be appropriately labeled. Labeling indicates that a foam drug product must be



FIGURE 14.18 Foam for anal and perianal use. To fill the applicator, the foam container is shaken vigorously and held upright, and the applicator tip placed on the container opening. With the plunger of the applicator drawn out all the way, pressure is exerted on the container cap, and foam fills the applicator tube. (Courtesy of Reed & Carnrick.)

shaken well to ensure uniformity prior to dispensing. The instructions for use must clearly note special precautions that are necessary to preserve sterility. In the absence of a metering valve, the delivered volume may be variable.