

Table 10.3 EXAMPLES OF OPHTHALMIC OINTMENTS

OINTMENT	COMMERCIAL PRODUCT	ACTIVE INGREDIENT	CATEGORY
Chloramphenicol ophthalmic	Chloromycetin Ophthalmic Ointment (Parke-Davis)	1%	Antibacterial antibiotic
Dexamethasone sodium phosphate ophthalmic	Decadron Phosphate Ophthalmic Ointment (Merck)	0.05%	Anti-inflammatory adrenocortical steroid
Gentamicin sulfate ophthalmic	Garamycin Ophthalmic Ointment (Schering)	0.3%	Antibacterial antibiotic
Isoflurophate ophthalmic	Floropryl Sterile Ophthalmic Ointment (Merck)	0.025%	Cholinesterase inhibitor
Polymyxin B-bacitracin ophthalmic	Polysporin Ophthalmic Ointment (Pfizer)	Per gram: polymyxin B sulfate, 10,000 U; bacitracin zinc, 500 U	Antimicrobial
Polymyxin B-bacitracin-neomycin ophthalmic	Neosporin Ophthalmic Ointment (Johnson & Johnson)	Per gram: polymyxin B sulfate, 10,000 U; bacitracin, zinc, 400 U; neomycin sulfate, 3.5 mg	Antimicrobial
Sulfacetamide sodium ophthalmic	Sodium Sulamyd Ophthalmic Ointment (Schering-Plough)	10%, 30%	Antibacterial
Tobramycin ophthalmic	Tobrex Ophthalmic Ointment (Alcon)	0.3%	Antibacterial antibiotic
Vidarabine ophthalmic	Vira-A Ophthalmic Ointment (Monarch)	3%	Antiviral

lungs. The ciliary action and the sneeze reflex add further defense against entry (16).

Drugs introduced into the nasal passage are primarily for local effects on the mucous membranes and underlying tissues (e.g., nasal decongestants). However, drug absorption to the general circulation does occur through the rich blood supply feeding the nasal lining. The nasal route of administration is also used for the systemic absorption of a number of drugs, including butorphanol tartrate (Stadol NS, Bristol-Myers Squibb), an analgesic; cyanocobalamin (Nascobal Gel, Schwartz), a hematopoietic; nafarelin acetate (Synarel, Searle) for the treatment of endometriosis; and nicotine (Nicotrol NS, McNeil) as an adjunct in smoking cessation. In addition, the nasal route holds great promise for the administration of insulin, vaccines, and a number of other polypeptides and proteins.

Cyanocobalamin (Nascobal Gel) for intranasal administration is used in the treatment of vitamin B₁₂ deficiency, including pernicious anemia. It is self-administered as a nasal gel. Generally, 0.1 mL of the gel, containing 500 mg of cyanocobalamin, is administered intranasally once weekly. The cyanocobalamin is effectively absorbed through the nasal mucosa to produce therapeutic blood levels (17).

FEATURES AND USE OF RECTAL PREPARATIONS

Among the dosage forms used in the topical treatment of anorectal conditions are ointments, gels, creams, and creamlike aerosol foams. Other dosage forms are solutions (for enema or irrigation) and suppositories, discussed elsewhere in this text.