



## Gaviscon Infant – Breastfed

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### **Gaviscon (Trade Name) – Infant powder**

**Use:** Gastric reflux suppressant

Gaviscon Infant works by mixing with the stomach contents, stabilising and thickening them to reduce the amount of reflux occurring. It is produced in a powder form and comes in one-dose sachets.

**Administration:** In breastfed babies, Gaviscon is mixed with 5 ml of cooled boiled water or breastmilk to form a smooth paste. This paste is usually adequate to administer from a spoon or syringe. A further 10 ml of fluid can be added to the paste, and fed in the same way or from a feeding bottle. Gaviscon Infant is best fed before or partway during a feed. Given at this time, it is generally more readily accepted than afterwards. It also helps to prevent reflux occurring during the feed.

*(Please note this differs from the instructions on the box, but has been discussed with the manufacturer, Reckitt Benckiser.)*

**Side effects:** Include constipation.

**Warning:** Gaviscon Infant is "Not for infants under 1 year except under medical supervision". Do not use Gaviscon Infant with feed thickeners.

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#### **REFERENCES:**

- (1) Medscape - Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease in Infants and Children
- (2) New Ethicals Catalogue and Compendium
- (3) Medsafe data sheets
- (4) [www.gaviscon.co.nz](http://www.gaviscon.co.nz)
- (5) <https://www.healthnavigator.org.nz/medicines/g/gaviscon-infant/>
- (6) <https://edu.cdhb.health.nz/Hospitals-Services/Health-Professionals/Neonatal-Clinical-Resources/Neonatal-Drug-Information-Sheets/Documents/Gaviscon.pdf>

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

GRASP (former New Zealand support group)

Rochelle Wilson (GRASP National Coordinator 1995 - 2001).

Dr Rodney Ford, Paediatrician <https://www.thechildrensclinic.co.nz/>

Reckitt Benckiser (New Zealand) Ltd 2006

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