

For further help, advice, information or samples contact: Fiona Ritchie
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MouthEze – Oral Cleanser

Safe replacement for the sponge mouth swab

Instructions for use



MouthEze is a safe replacement for the mouth sponge swab. The cone-shaped head and soft, rounded filaments soothe the soft tissues when cleansing the oral mucosa. The extended handle is easy to grip and allows good access to the back of the mouth. The primary patient group are those in intensive care (ICU) who are susceptible to chest infections – clinically known as Ventilated Ventilator Associated Pneumonia (VAP).

Other patient groups include stroke and head & neck oncology patients, or those dependent on mouth care by other people, who are particularly vulnerable to contaminated secretions.

USES: The MouthEze is used to help prevent VAP and other conditions related to accumulated debris in the oral cavity; a suction can also be used to help remove any excess fluids or saliva. This should be included as part of the Trust protocol and individual ward oral care plan.

MouthEze can be used to:

- hydrate (moisten) the lips, tongue and soft tissues inside the mouth with water, water based gels and mouth rinses
- clean coated tongues
- remove retained food and debris from the mouth
- remove sticky tenacious secretions, crusty plugs on the palate and stringy saliva following cancer therapy treatment
- aid oral desensitisation for patients with special requirements and learning difficulties

Instructions for use:

- MouthEze can be used wet or dry.
- Rinse before use.
- Do not use if the filaments or handle appear damaged in any way.
- Remove MouthEze from sleeve and gently sweep around the soft tissues inside the mouth.
- Remove food and debris - use a rotation action
- For coated tongues – moisten with water or water based gel and gently sweep across the tongue from the base to the tip.
- For lubricating the mouth - dip MouthEze in water, mouthrinse or water based gel and gently sweep around the mouth.
- Oral desensitisation – follow care plan procedure

To Clean MouthEze after use:

- MouthEze can be re-used with the same patient. Place the MouthEze under running water and then immerse in disinfectant and allow to air dry
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- If not disinfecting, please dispose of MouthEze after each use

Storage: There are no special storage requirements for the unopened pack

DO NOT USE:

- If any of the filaments are detached from the head of MouthEze
- If the packaging is damaged or open

TAKE precaution:

- If the patient presents with ulcerated or broken tissues in the mouth. Ask advice from the duty senior healthcare professional to ensure the oral mucosa is safe to be cleaned using MouthEze as part of this process. If MouthEze is used, once it is removed from the patient's mouth immediately discard and use another MouthEze to complete cleaning
- If a patient has swallowing difficulties and a bite reflex ensure that no filaments have fallen into the mouth if the patient bites down on MouthEze. In the event filaments are bitten off and are in the mouth these can either be removed with moistened gauze, a new MouthEze or a clean soft headed toothbrush

Precautions:

- Ensure the packaging is not damaged or broken. In the event this is the case do not use and dispose of MouthEze

After use, clean and rinse MouthEze thoroughly under running water and immerse in disinfectant. Allow to air dry. For Critical Care/Intensive Care Units follow local procedure for rinsing with sterile water or discard after single use.

Other information:

Common-sense supports that for patients who are more susceptible to infections, a higher level of vigilance to prevent exposure to disease-causing organisms may offer some benefit.

MouthEze is a single patient use product. Discard after 12 hours

MouthEze is NOT designed to clean teeth, use a toothbrush and toothpaste.