



## Suppositories vs. Oral Medications: Which is More Effective for Certain Conditions?

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### Description

Suppositories and oral medications are two common ways of delivering medication to the body. While both methods can be effective, there are certain conditions for which one method may be more effective than the other.

Suppositories are small, bullet-shaped medications that are inserted into the rectum, vagina, or urethra. They are typically made of a base material that is melted at body temperature and can include medication or other active ingredients. Suppositories are commonly used when a patient cannot swallow pills, has gastrointestinal issues that prevent absorption of oral medication, or when a localized effect is desired.

Oral medications, on the other hand, are medications that are taken by mouth and are absorbed through the digestive system. This can include pills, tablets, capsules, liquids, and powders. Oral medications are often used because they are easy to administer, convenient, and can have a systemic effect throughout the body.

There are certain conditions for which suppositories may be more effective than oral medications. For example, suppositories can be used to treat hemorrhoids, constipation, and Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). When used for hemorrhoids, suppositories provide localized relief by reducing swelling and inflammation. In cases of constipation, suppositories can stimulate the bowels to promote a bowel movement. In cases of IBD, suppositories can deliver medication directly to the inflamed area, providing targeted relief and reducing the risk of side effects associated with systemic medication.

Suppositories can also be effective for delivering medication to certain populations, such as infants and elderly patients. Infants may not be able to swallow pills, and suppositories can provide an alternative delivery method. Elderly patients may have difficulty swallowing pills due to dysphagia or other issues, and suppositories can provide a convenient and effective alternative.

There are also certain conditions for which oral medications may be more effective than suppositories. For example, oral medications are often used to treat conditions such as hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and diabetes. These conditions require systemic treatment, and oral medications are able to provide a broad and consistent effect throughout the body. Additionally, many medications are only available in oral form, and suppositories may not be a viable alternative.

Oral medications can also be more convenient for patients, as they do not require insertion into the body. This can be especially important for patients who may have difficulty with self-administration, such as those with physical disabilities.

In some cases, the choice between suppositories and oral medications may come down to patient preference. Some patients may prefer suppositories due to the localized effect or the convenience of administration, while others may prefer oral medications due to the ease of administration and systemic effect.

It is important to note that both suppositories and oral medications can have side effects and risks associated with their use. Patients should always consult with their healthcare provider to determine the most appropriate treatment for their condition and to discuss any potential risks or concerns.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, while both suppositories and oral medications can be effective for treating a variety of conditions, there are certain conditions for which one method may be more effective than the other. Suppositories may be more effective for conditions such as hemorrhoids, constipation, and IBD, as well as for certain populations such as infants and elderly patients. Oral medications may be more effective for conditions such as hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and diabetes, as well as for patients who prefer a systemic effect or have difficulty with self-administration. Ultimately, the choice between suppositories and oral medications will depend on the individual patient and their specific needs and preferences.

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