

# Hydroxyethyl cellulose

*hye-drox-ee-ETH-il SELL-yoo-lose*

**Brand Name:** Cellulosize

Hydroxyethyl cellulose, also known as HEC, is a gel-like substance that is a common ingredient in vaginal gels. HEC itself is not an active drug. Drugs to prevent and fight infection are mixed with HEC so that they can be applied vaginally.

HEC is used in many vaginal microbicides. Microbicides are substances that protect the body from infection by microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, and fungi. Microbicides work by either destroying the microbes or preventing them from establishing an infection.

## **HIV/AIDS-Related Uses**

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HEC is used in microbicides that are being studied to prevent sexual transmission of HIV. HEC alone (not mixed with any active drug) is often used as the placebo, or control, in HIV microbicide clinical trials. The effect of HEC alone is being studied to make sure that it is a good placebo.

## **Dosage Information**

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HEC comes in a vaginal gel form.

## **Contraindications**

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Individuals should tell a doctor about any medical problems before taking this medicine.

## **Possible Side Effects**

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Along with its desired effects, HEC may cause some unwanted effects. HEC is being studied to find out if it causes unwanted effects.

## **Drug and Food Interactions**

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A doctor should be notified of any other medications being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), or herbal medications.

## **Clinical Trials**

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For information on clinical trials that involve Hydroxyethyl cellulose, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. In the Search box, enter: Hydroxyethyl cellulose AND HIV Infections.

## **Manufacturer Information**

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Hydroxyethyl cellulose  
Union Carbide  
A Subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Company  
39 Old Ridgebury Road  
Danbury, CT 06817-0001

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## **For More Information**

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Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health Information Specialist:

- Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET
- Via Live Help: [http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live\\_help](http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help) Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET