

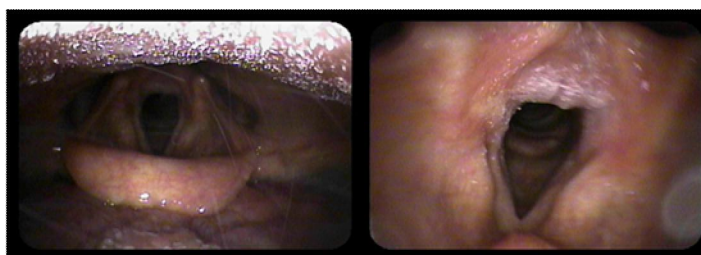
RATIONALE AND EFFICACY OF PEPTIGON™ (HYDROXYPROPYLMETHYLCELLULOSE) POWDER FOR TREATMENT OF LPR SYMPTOMS: A PILOT STUDY

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Laryngopharyngeal reflux (LPR) is an expensive, high-prevalence disease, and its symptoms are among the most common complaints for which people seek medical attention. Such include chronic sore throat, cough, and post-nasal drip. LPR treatment is usually directed at reducing gastric acidity. The annual sales of proton pump inhibitors alone exceed \$10 billion. Contrary to popular belief, however, it is the stomach enzyme pepsin (not acid) that produces reflux-related inflammation and tissue injury.

Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC) powder is derived from cellulose, one of the most abundant organic compounds on earth. Raw, fibrous cellulose is found in plants and trees; but processed HPMC has different properties, and it is used in foods as an emulsifier, thickening agent, and stabilizer for bakery goods, ice cream, whipped toppings, and salad dressings. HPMC adds creaminess and extends shelf life by increasing resistance to bacterial decomposition. HPMC has many pharmaceutical uses as a drug carrier, a coating agent, a tableting agent, and it is also used in ophthalmic solutions and in personal care products, such as KY Jelly.

HPMC is also used in Nasaleze, a product invented in 1992 by Mike James, which provides a novel treatment for allergies through mucosal protection. Nasaleze is an inexpensive, safe, and effective treatment for allergic rhinitis consisting of spraying HPMC into the nose. HPMC has a remarkable rheology; as soon as the powder (Nasaleze) contacts the epithelium, it hydrates forming a thin mucus blanket that prevents allergens from binding. Symptoms such as sneezing and runny nose are prevented. Since its introduction, millions of bottles of Nasaleze have used without significant complications or side effects reported. Peptigon™ (Patents pending) is similar to Nasaleze (HPMC) but is delivered with an oral device; for LPR, it is used twice daily (a.m. & p.m.). See photographs below.



Pharynx

Larynx

Preliminary Results of Pilot Study

Ten patients with LPR (7 males & 3 females) with chronic sore throat, cough, and post-nasal drip, considered to be medical treatment failures on twice-daily proton pump inhibitors, were given Peptigon for 6 weeks. One was lost to follow-up, but 67% (6/9) reported significant symptom improvement with no side effects. Peptigon (HPMC), as a new approach to disease prevention and management appears to offer great promise for treatment of LPR symptoms.

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