

Using Charcoal to Diagnose Vaginal Fistulas

Activated charcoal is a medication you will be using to find out if you have a fistula. This medication is available over the counter but can be difficult to find. Your pharmacy may need a prescription for you to get this medication or they may need to order it for you.

Vaginal Fistula - an abnormal opening in the vagina that allows stool or urine to pass through the vagina.

What are my instructions?

Drink 25 grams of activated charcoal. Twenty four hours after drinking the charcoal, you will see your stool is black. Make sure your skin is completely clean and dry. Insert a tampon into your vagina. If you see black on the tampon, your test is positive. This means you have a vaginal fistula; a passageway for stool to come from your rectum to your vagina.

Who do I call with the results?

Call Michigan Bowel Control Program nurses at 877-462-6935 with the results or any questions.

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