



Stericom Ltd
Units 1&2 Higham Mead
Chesham
HP5 2AH
England

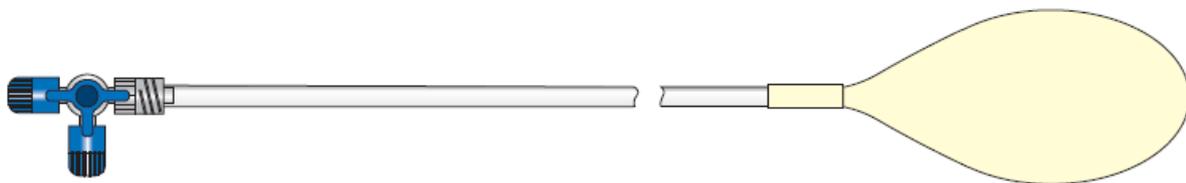
Tel: +44 (0)1494 794315
Fax: +44 (0)1494 772759
info@stericom.com
www.stericom.com

The Ashley2 Catheter: Protocols, Tests & Procedures

The Ashley Reflex Balloon Catheter has a 400mm long soft PVC tube and is fitted with a polyisoprene balloon with a 600ml inflation capacity

A 3-way tap enables easy, controlled inflation and deflation in stages.

The catheter is suitable for rectal sensation testing, compliance training and balloon expulsion training, and may be used for RAIR testing when used in conjunction with sphincter manometry.



Tests for Constipation

- Balloon distension / Sensation Testing
- RAIR
- Balloon expulsion

Tests for Incontinence

- Balloon distension / Sensation Testing
- Balloon expulsion
(RAIR is not necessary)

NB. If there is overlap of symptoms, then all the tests are needed

Balloon Distension / Sensation Testing

1. Insert the balloon 6-8cm above the proximal verge of the anal canal
2. "Seat" the balloon by slowly inflating with 50 ml of air, using the 3-way tap and a 50ml syringe. Withdraw air from the balloon using the syringe by adjusting the tap
3. Slowly re-inflate the balloon (at a rate of approximately 50 ml/min) using the 3-way tap and the 50ml syringe. Ascertain and record the patient's threshold, urge and maximum tolerated volumes
4. Deflate the balloon

Recto-Anal Inhibitory Reflex (R.A.I.R)

1. In addition to the Ashley, a manometry catheter also needs to be used. Either the water-perfused or microtip type may be employed for the purpose
2. Following the balloon distension procedure, leave the deflated balloon in the rectum
3. Choose the RAIR protocol. Hold the manometry catheter horizontally at the verge of the anal canal and zero the catheter
4. Insert the catheter into the anal canal so that a pressure approximately equivalent to the resting canal pressure is observed on the trace
5. Quickly inflate and then deflate the balloon with 50 ml of air. N.B. To minimise movement of the electrode during this test, it will be necessary to hold the manometry catheter in place during the inflation/deflation of the balloon
6. If not elicited, increase the volume by 50ml increments at a time until a response is obtained

Balloon Expulsion (to evaluate muscle- co-ordination)

1. With the balloon still in the rectum, fill with 50 ml warm water (approximately room temperature)
2. Pull the balloon until it is just visible at the anal verge
3. Apply traction to the balloon whilst asking the patient to push the balloon out
4. Note any blood or mucus on the balloon

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