Claims:

1. Use of a first colon cleansing solution comprising:

(i) 70 to 250 g per litre PEG having an average molecular weight of 2500 to 4500 Da.
(ii) 2.0 to 20 g per litre of one or more alkali metal sulphates, alkaline earth metal sulphates or a mixture thereof
(iii) optionally one or more electrolytes;
(iv) optionally one or more flavouring agents; and
(v) optionally one or more sweeteners;

and a second colon cleansing solution comprising:

a) 300 to 800 mmol per litre ascorbate anion provided by a mixture of:

(i) ascorbic acid, and
(ii) one or more salts of ascorbic acid,

the components (i) and (ii) being present in a molar ratio of from 1:4.5 to 1:7.0; and

b) 10 to 200 g per litre polyethylene glycol.

in the manufacture of a medicament ~~for use~~ in a method of cleansing the colon of a subject before a diagnostic, therapeutic or surgical procedure, wherein an effective amount of the first and second colon cleansing solutions are to be administered to the subject;

whereby the first colon cleansing solution is taken over a time period t(d1) followed by ~~optional~~ additional water based beverage over a time period t(cf1), and then following a time interval t(dose interval), the second colon cleansing solution is taken over a time period t(d2) followed by ~~optional~~ additional water based beverage over a time period t(cf2), whereby the subject undergoes the surgical, therapeutic or diagnostic procedure at a time t_2 after the beginning of the colon cleansing method, and whereby the time interval after the completion of the second additional water based beverage and the start of the surgical, therapeutic or diagnostic procedure is t(procedure interval);

wherein:

(i) t_2 is in the range of from 10 to 36 hours;
t(dose interval) is in the range of from 0 to 8 hours; and
t(procedure interval) is in the range from 8 to 20 hours; or

(ii) t_2 is in the range of from 10 to 36 hours;
t(dose interval) is in the range of from 8 to 20 hours; and
t(procedure interval) is in the range from 30 minutes to 10 hours; or

(iii) t_2 is in the range of from 3 to 14 hours;
t(dose interval) is in the range of from 0 minutes to 8 hours; and
t(procedure interval) is in the range from 30 minutes to 10 hours.

2. Use of a first and second colon cleansing solutions as claimed in claim 1 in which the first and second cleansing solutions are to be ingested by the subject on the day of the diagnostic, therapeutic or surgical procedure, and:
- t(d1) is 15 minutes to 1 hour ~~(for example 30 minutes)~~;
- t(cf1) is 15 minutes to 1 hour ~~(for example 30 minutes)~~,
- t(dose interval) is in the range of from 0 minutes to 8 hours ~~(for example from 30 minutes to 4 hours, for example one hour or two hours)~~
- t(d2) is 15 minutes to 1 hour ~~(for example 30 minutes)~~;
- t(cf2) is 15 minutes to 1 hour ~~(for example 30 minutes)~~.
- t_2 is in the range of from 3 to 14 hours ~~(for example from 4 to 10 hours)~~; and
- t(procedure interval) is from 30 minutes to 10 hours ~~(for example from 1 to 6 hours)~~.

3. Use of a first and second colon cleansing solutions as claimed in claim 2 wherein:
- t(d1) is 30 minutes;
- t(cf1) is 30 minutes;
- t(dose interval) is one hour or two hours;
- t(d2) is 30 minutes;
- t(cf2) is 30 minutes.
- t_2 is in the range of from 4 to 8 hours; and
- t(procedure interval) is from 1 to 6 hours.

4. Use of a first and second colon cleansing solutions as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first and second cleansing solutions are to be ingested by the subject in the evening before the day of the diagnostic, therapeutic or surgical procedure, and:
- t(d1) is 15 minutes to 1 hour ~~(for example 30 minutes)~~;
- t(cf1) is 15 minutes to 1 hour ~~(for example 30 minutes)~~,
- t(dose interval) is in the range of from 0 minutes to 8 hours ~~(for example from 30 minutes to 4 hours, for example one hour or two hours)~~;
- t(d2) is 15 minutes to 1 hour ~~(for example 30 minutes)~~;
- t(cf2) is 15 minutes to 1 hour ~~(for example 30 minutes)~~.
- t_2 is in the range of from 10 to 36 hours ~~(for example from 12 to 24 hours, for example from 12 to 16 hours)~~; and
- t(procedure interval) is from 8 to 20 hours ~~(for example from 10 to 16 hours)~~.

5. Use of a first and second colon cleansing solutions as claimed in claim 4 wherein:
- t(d1) is 30 minutes;
- t(cf1) is 30 minutes;
- t(dose interval) is one hour or two hours;
- t(d2) is 30 minutes;
- t(cf2) is 30 minutes.
- t_2 is in the range of from 10 to 36 hours; and
- t(procedure interval) is from 8 to 20 hours.

6. Use of a first and second colon cleansing solutions as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first cleansing solution is to be ingested by the subject in the evening before the day of the diagnostic, therapeutic or surgical procedure, and the second cleansing solution is to be ingested on the morning of the diagnostic, therapeutic or surgical procedure, wherein
- t(d1) is 15 minutes to 1 hour ~~(for example 30 minutes)~~;
- t(cf1) is 15 minutes to 1 hour ~~(for example 30 minutes)~~,
- t(dose interval) is in the range of from 8 to 20 hours ~~(for example 10 to 14 hours)~~;
- t(d2) is 15 minutes to 1 hour ~~(for example 30 minutes)~~;
- t(cf2) is 15 minutes to 1 hour ~~(for example 30 minutes)~~.
- t_2 is in the range of from 10 to 36 hours ~~(for example from 12 to 24 hours, for example from 12 to 16 hours)~~; and
- t(procedure interval) is from 30 minutes to 10 hours ~~(for example from 1 to 6 hours)~~.

7. Use of a first and second colon cleansing solutions as claimed in claim 6 wherein:
- t(d1) is 30 minutes;
- t(cf1) is 30 minutes;
- t(dose interval) is in the range of from 8 to 20 hours;
- t(d2) is 30 minutes;
- t(cf2) is 30 minutes.
- t_2 is in the range of from 10 to 36 hours; and
- t(procedure interval) is from 1 to 6 hours.

8. Use of a first and second colon cleansing solutions as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the second cleansing solution is to be taken by the subject from 250ml up to 1000ml.

9. Use of a first and second colon cleansing solutions as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein the first cleansing solution is to be taken by the subject from 400ml up to 1100ml.

10. Use of a first and second colon cleansing solutions as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein first cleansing solution has a volume of 500ml or 750ml, and the second cleansing solution has a volume of 500ml.

~~11. Use of a first and second colon cleansing solutions as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein additional water based beverage is to be taken by the subject after one or both of the first and second colon cleansing solutions.~~

~~12.~~11. Use of a first and second colon cleansing solutions as claimed in claims ~~11~~1 to 10, in which 300 ml to 1000 ml of additional water based beverage is to be taken by the subject after each of the first and second colon cleansing solutions.

~~13.~~12. Use of a first and second colon cleansing solutions as claimed in any one of claims 1 to ~~12~~11 in which the second colon cleansing solution comprises:

a)

(i) 12 to 20g per litre ascorbic acid and

(ii) 80 to 120g per litre sodium ascorbate

the components (i) and (ii) being present in a weight ratio of from 1:5.063 to 1:7.875;

b) 60 to 100g per litre PEG having an average molecular weight of 3000 to 4000 Da;

c) 3 to 8g per litre sodium chloride and 1 to 7g per litre potassium chloride;

e) one or more flavouring agents; and

f) one or more sweeteners.

~~14.~~13. Use of a first and second colon cleansing solutions as claimed in any one of claims 1 to ~~13~~12 in which the first colon cleansing solution comprises:

(i) 175 to 220 g per litre PEG having an average molecular weight of 2500 to 4500 Da.

(ii) 15 to 20 g per litre of one or more alkali metal sulphates, alkaline earth metal sulphates or a mixture thereof

(iii) 3.0 to 5.0 g per litre sodium chloride, and 1.5 to 2.5 g per litre potassium chloride;

(iv) optionally one or more flavouring agents; and

(v) optionally one or more sweeteners.

~~15.~~14. Use of a first and second colon cleansing solutions as claimed in any one of claim 1 to ~~14~~13 wherein the first colon cleansing solution comprises:

(i) 100 g PEG having an average molecular weight of 3000 to 4000 Da;

(ii) 9.0 g sodium sulphate;

(iii) 2.0g sodium chloride and 1.0g potassium chloride;

(iv) optionally one or more flavouring agents; and

(v) optionally one or more sweeteners.

~~16.~~15. Use of a first and second colon cleansing solutions as claimed in any one of claims 1 to ~~15~~14 wherein the second colon cleansing solution comprises:

a)

(i) 7.54 g ascorbic acid and

(ii) 48.11 g sodium ascorbate

b) 40g PEG having an average molecular weight of 3000 to 4000 Da;

c) 3.20g sodium chloride and 1.20g potassium chloride;

d) one or more flavouring agents; and

e) one or more sweeteners.

~~17.~~ 16. Use of a first and second colon cleansing solutions as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 3 wherein the method is carried out on the day of a colonoscopy of a subject, and

- At approximately 05:00H, solution S2 in 500 mL of water is to be taken by the subject over 30 minutes at a rate of approximately 250 mL every 15 minutes;
- 500 mL of additional water is to be drunk by the subject over the next 30 minutes at the rate of 250 mL every 15 minutes until complete;
- Then a 1 hour liquid-free break is observed;
- At approximately 07.00H, solution T1 in 500 mL of water is to be taken by the subject over 30 minutes at a rate of 250 mL every 15 minutes;
- 500 mL of additional water is to be drunk by the subject; and
- Colonoscopy is carried out at least one hour after the last of the additional water is consumed, solution S2 being a solution comprising 100.00g PEG 3350, 9.00g Na_2SO_4 (anhyd), 2.00g NaCl, 1.00g KCl, 0.40g sucralose, 0.500g Fruit Punch Flavouring and 0.75g Citric Acid in water to a volume of 500ml, and solution T1 being a solution comprising 40.00g PEG 3350, 3.20g NaCl, 1.20g KCl, 1.93g Aspartame 0.60g Orange Flavouring, 48.11g Sodium Ascorbate and 7.54g Ascorbic Acid in water to a volume of 500ml.

~~18.~~ 17. Use of a first and second colon cleansing solutions as claimed in any one of claims 9 to ~~14~~13 wherein the method is carried out on the day before a colonoscopy of a subject, and

- At approximately 18:00H, solution S2 in 500 mL of water is to be taken by the subject over 30 minutes at a rate of approximately 250 mL every 15 minutes until complete;
- 500 mL of additional water is to be drunk by the subject;
- After an interval of 1-2 hours, solution T1 in 500 mL of water is to be taken by the subject over 30 minutes at the rate of 250 mL every 15 minutes until complete;
- 500 mL of additional water is to be drunk by the subject; and
- Colonoscopy is carried out the following day,

solution S2 being a solution comprising 100.00g PEG 3350, 9.00g Na_2SO_4 (anhyd), 2.00g NaCl, 1.00g KCl, 0.40g sucralose, 0.500g Fruit Punch Flavouring and 0.75g Citric Acid in water to a volume of 500ml, and solution T1 being a solution comprising 40.00g PEG 3350, 3.20g NaCl, 1.20g KCl, 1.93g Aspartame, 0.60g Orange Flavouring, 48.11g Sodium Ascorbate and 7.54g Ascorbic Acid in water to a volume of 500ml.

~~19.~~ 18. Use of a first and second colon cleansing solutions as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 7 wherein on the day before the colonoscopy:
- At approximately 18:00H, Formulation S2 in 16 fl oz (500 mL) of water is to be taken by the subject;
- 16 fl oz (500 mL) of mandatory additional water is to be drunk by the subject;
and, on the day of the colonoscopy:
- At approximately 06:00H, Formulation T1 in 16 fl oz. (500mL) of water is to be taken by the subject over 30 minutes at the rate of 250 mL every 15 minutes until complete;
- 500 mL of additional water is to be drunk by the subject; and
- Colonoscopy is carried out at least one hour after the last of the additional water is consumed;
solution S2 being a solution comprising 100.00g PEG 3350, 9.00g Na_2SO_4 (anhyd), 2.00g NaCl, 1.00g KCl, 0.40g sucralose, 0.500g Fruit Punch Flavouring and 0.75g Citric Acid in water to a volume of 500ml, and solution T1 being a solution comprising 40.00g PEG 3350, 3.20g NaCl, 1.20g KCl, 1.93g Aspartame, 0.60g Orange Flavouring, 48.11g Sodium Ascorbate and 7.54g Ascorbic Acid in water to a volume of 500ml.

~~20.~~ 19. Use of a first and second colon cleansing solutions as claimed in any one of claims 1 to ~~19~~18 in which the subject is advised not to eat heavy meals before starting the colon cleansing treatment, or the subject is advised to fast for 12 hours before starting the colon cleansing treatment, or the subject is advised to follow a “white diet” for a day before, or the day of the start of the colon cleansing procedure, or the subject is advised to consume only a light meal~~, for example plain yoghurt,~~ during that period;
“white diet” being food intake restricted to white and cream-coloured foods, foods that are allowed including chicken breast without skin, fish fillets without skin, eggs, cheeses, rice crackers, white bread, plain pasta, white rice, rice noodle, peeled potato, ice cream, butter, custard, mayonnaise, milk and white chocolate; white foods that are not allowed including coconut, onion, cauliflower, pears, parsnip, semolina, banana and popcorn.