

GATTEX: Empowering Patients with Short Bowel Syndrome



How GATTEX Can Improve
Quality of Life and
Nutritional Health



SBSF

Short Bowel Syndrome Foundation

Medical Advice Disclaimer

The Short Bowel Syndrome Foundation (SBSF) is committed to providing educational resources, support, and advocacy for the community we serve.

The information we provide is intended solely for educational purposes. It should not be used for self-diagnosis or to make medical decisions without first consulting with your healthcare provider.

Please note that SBSF does not provide medical advice. If you have any health-related questions or concerns related to GATTEX, we strongly encourage you to reach out to your healthcare provider.

This information was put together by SBSF and is not affiliated with Takeda



What is GATTEX

Gattex, also known as teduglutide, is a medicine that helps people with a condition called Short Bowel Syndrome (SBS).

SBS happens when your small intestine can't absorb enough nutrients and fluids for your body.

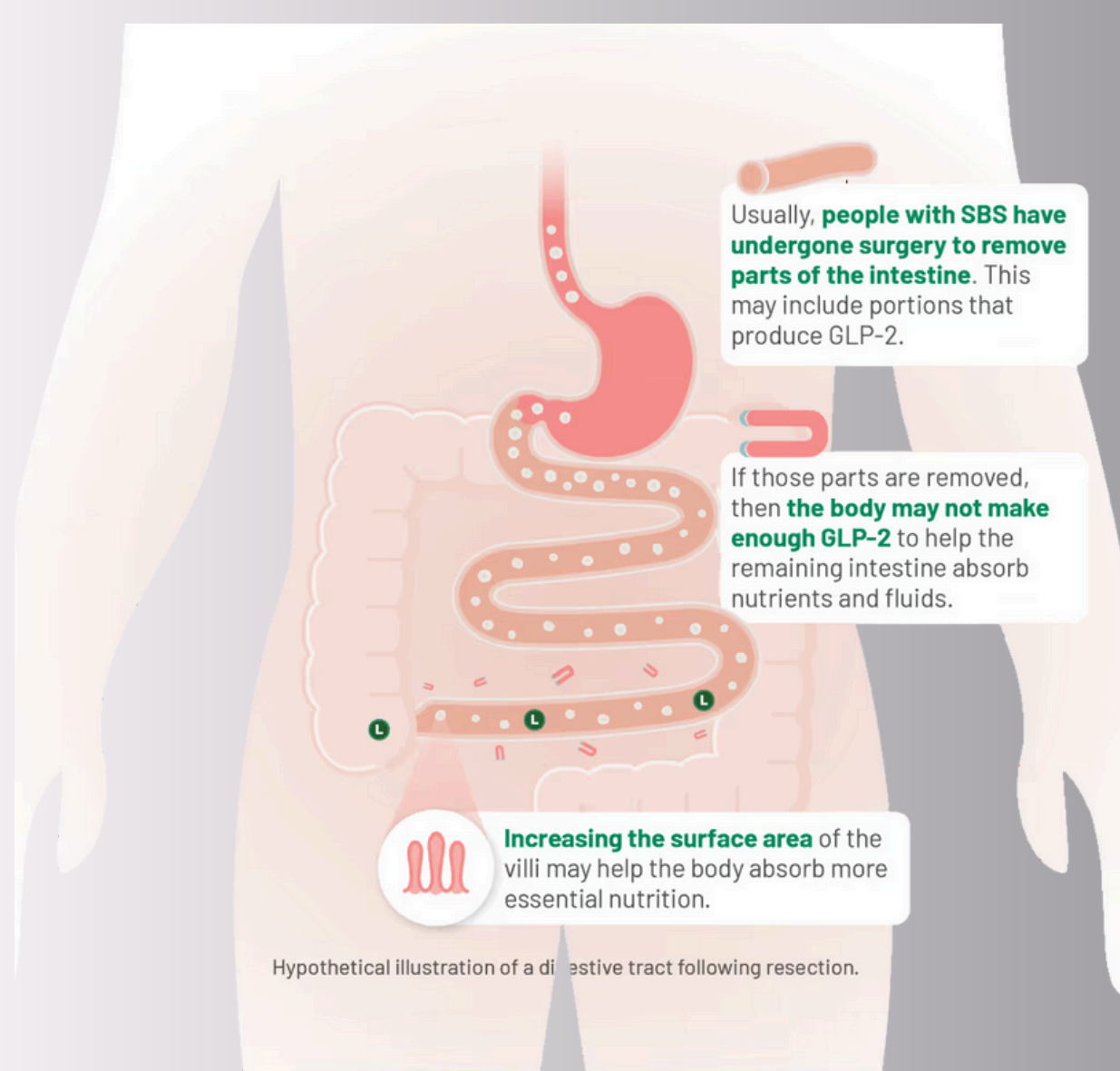
This is often because a large part of the small intestine has been removed through surgery.

Gattex is used by adults and children who need extra nutrition support. It's a way to help your body get the nutrients it needs.



Understanding GLP-2 and Its Function in Your Body

GLP-2 is a helper in your body that makes sure you get the nutrients and fluids you need. For individuals with SBS, they might not have enough GLP-2. This is often because parts of their intestines, where GLP-2 is usually made, have been taken out through surgery.



People with SBS have had a large part of their small intestine removed through surgery. Without these parts, the body might not produce enough GLP-2 cells.

These cells are important because they help the remaining part of the intestine soak up nutrients and fluids.

By making the finger-like structures in the intestine, called villi, bigger, the body might be able to absorb more of the nutrients it needs.

Before Using GATTEX

If you're starting GATTEX, here are some simple things to remember:

- Inform all your healthcare providers that you're taking GATTEX. You'll need regular check-ups, including blood tests, as your doctor directs. Before you start GATTEX, you'll have a colonoscopy or other exam.
- It's important to know that GATTEX can increase the risk of abnormal cells turning into cancer.
- If you're pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding, let your healthcare provider know. GATTEX's safety during pregnancy and breastfeeding hasn't been established.
- Also, tell your healthcare providers about all the medicines you're taking. This includes prescription or over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- Gattex is taken once a day and needs to be prepared before it's injected. The amount you take will depend on your weight. After mixing it, GATTEX should be used within 3 hours and stored at room temperature, up to 77°F (25°C).
- Always remember to follow your healthcare provider's advice and instructions when using GATTEX.



Possible Side Effects of GATTEX

Common Side Effects of GATTEX:

- For adults using GATTEX, they might experience some common side effects. These can include pain or swelling in the stomach area, feeling sick, symptoms of a cold or flu, reactions on the skin where the injection was given, throwing up, swelling of the hands or feet, and allergic reactions.
- Children and teenagers who use GATTEX might have similar side effects to adults. If you have any side effect that's bothering you or doesn't go away, make sure to tell your healthcare provider.
- **Abnormal Cell Growth:** GATTEX may speed up abnormal cell growth, possibly leading to cancer. If you develop cancer in certain organs while using GATTEX, your healthcare provider should stop the treatment.
- **Colon Polyps:** Polyps may develop in the colon. Your healthcare provider will check for polyps before and during your GATTEX treatment. If cancer is found in a polyp, GATTEX should be stopped.
- **Bowel Blockage:** A bowel blockage can prevent normal digestion. If you have symptoms like difficulty passing gas or bowel movements, abdominal pain or swelling, nausea, vomiting, or stoma issues, inform your healthcare provider immediately.
- **Gallbladder or Pancreas Issues:** Your healthcare provider will regularly check your gallbladder and pancreas. If you experience symptoms like abdominal pain, chills, fever, changes in stools, nausea, vomiting, dark urine, or yellowing skin or eyes, inform your healthcare provider immediately.
- **Fluid Overload:** Your healthcare provider will monitor you for excessive fluid, which could lead to heart failure. If you experience symptoms like swelling in your feet and ankles, rapid weight gain, or difficulty breathing, inform your healthcare provider immediately.

Clinical Trial Summary

In a study comparing GATTEX and a placebo, side effects were observed in both groups. Among 77 people taking GATTEX, 30% experienced stomach area pain, 23% had nausea, 21% had upper respiratory tract infections, 20% had stomach area swelling, 13% had skin reactions at the injection site, 12% experienced vomiting and swelling of the hands or feet, 10% had allergic reactions, 9% reported passing gas, 7% had decreased appetite and influenza, and 5% experienced bruising, cough, and trouble sleeping.

In comparison, among 59 people taking a placebo, 22% experienced stomach area pain, 20% had nausea, 12% had skin reactions at the injection site, 10% experienced vomiting, 7% had swelling of the hands or feet, allergic reactions, and passing gas, 3% had decreased appetite, 2% had bruising and influenza, and none reported having a cough or trouble sleeping.

How to Use GATTEX

- **Preparing GATTEX:** GATTEX comes as a powder in a vial. You'll mix this with Sterile Water for Injection that's provided in a prefilled syringe. Inject the water into the vial containing the GATTEX powder.
- **Mixing GATTEX:** Let the vial stand for about 30 seconds. Then, gently roll it between your palms for about 15 seconds. Don't shake the vial. Let the mixture stand for about 2 minutes. Check to make sure all the powder has dissolved.
- **Dosing GATTEX:** Your healthcare provider will tell you how much GATTEX to use based on your weight. Make sure to follow their instructions exactly.
- **Injecting GATTEX:** GATTEX is given once daily at the same time. You'll inject GATTEX under your skin in your stomach area, upper legs, or upper arms. Don't inject GATTEX into a vein or muscle. Use a different injection site each time you use GATTEX.
- **Storing GATTEX:** Store GATTEX at room temperature, up to 77°F (25°C). Use it within 3 hours after mixing. Throw away any unused GATTEX that has been mixed, even if there is medicine left in the vial.
- **Remember!** Always follow your healthcare provider's advice and instructions when using GATTEX. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to your healthcare provider. This guide is here to help you understand GATTEX, but your healthcare provider is your best resource for personalized advice.

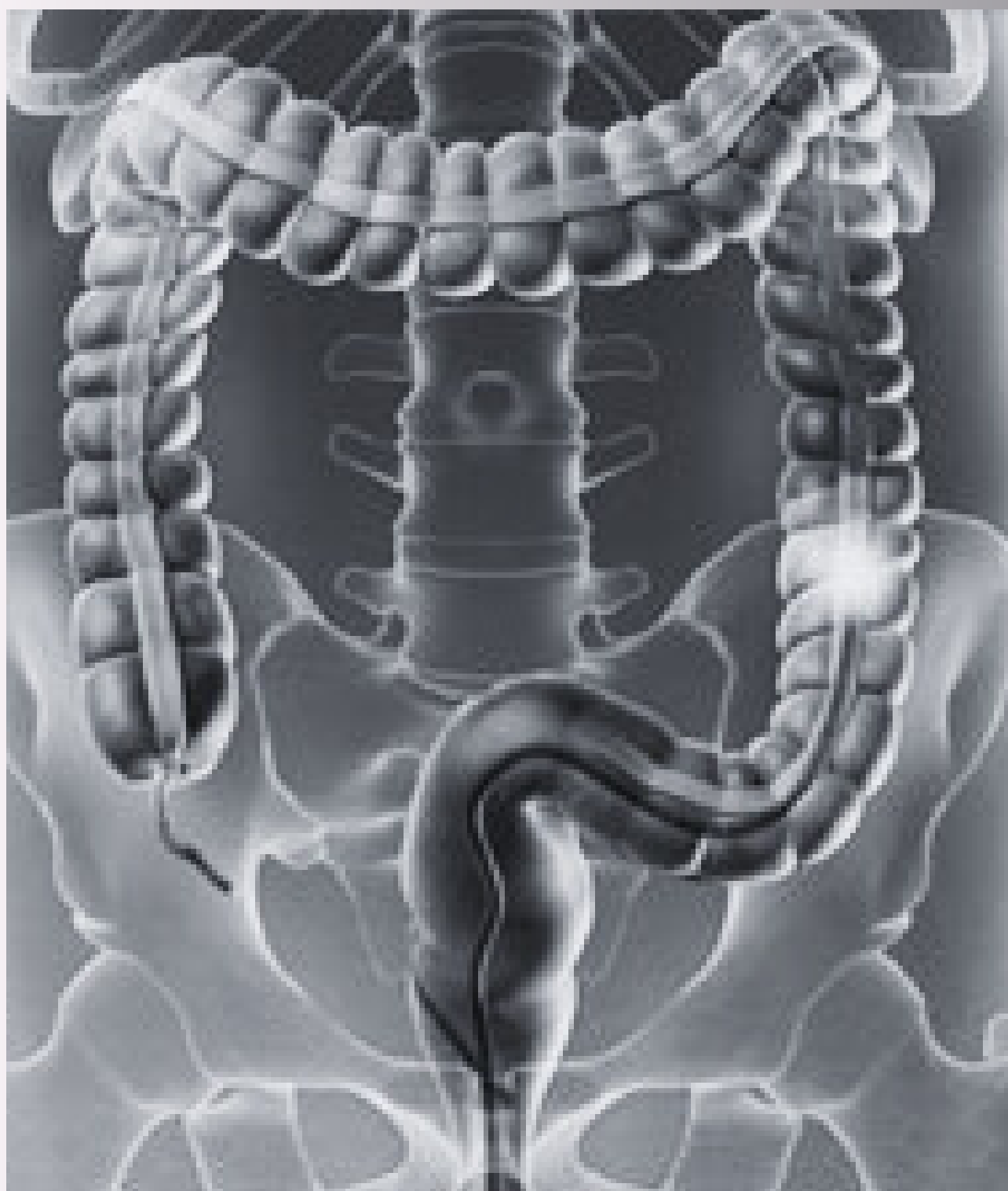
(Information gathered from GATTEX website from Takeda)

Yearly Colonoscopy

People taking GATTEX need a colonoscopy every year. This is because GATTEX can increase the chance of developing growths in the colon, known as polyps, which could potentially turn into cancer. To keep patients safe, healthcare providers will check for these polyps in the colon within 6 months before starting GATTEX and remove any that they find.

After using GATTEX for 1 year, your healthcare provider should check again for new polyps. If no new polyp is found, your healthcare provider will continue to check for polyps as needed and at least every 5 years, removing any new ones found. If a polyp turns into cancer, your healthcare provider should stop GATTEX.

That's why it's so important for GATTEX patients to have a yearly colonoscopy. It's a key part of keeping an eye on their health while on this medication. As always, consult with your healthcare provider for advice that's tailored to you.



(Information Compiled in part from Takeda)

Contact SBSF



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