

BETAMESONE

Cream & Ointment

Composition:

Betamethasone 0.1% (as 17-valerat).

Indications:

Inflammatory dermatoses that are normally responsive to topical corticosteroid therapy; eczema in children and adults; including atopic and discoid eczemas, prurigo nodularis; psoriasis (excluding widespread plaque psoriasis); neurodermatoses, including lichen planus; seborrheic dermatitis; contact sensitivity reactions; discoid lupus erythematosus and may be used as an adjunct to systemic steroid therapy in generalized erythroderma.

When this Preparation not be used:

Rosacea, acne and perioral dermatitis. Primary cutaneous viral infections (eg herpes simplex, chickenpox). Hypersensitivity to the preparation. The use of Betamesone skin preparations is not indicated in the treatment of primarily infected skin lesions caused by infection with fungi (eg candidiasis, tinea), or bacteria (eg impetigo); perianal and genital pruritus;

Do not use this medicine without consulting a doctor before starting treatment:

- If you are pregnant or breast-feeding.
- Dermatoses in children under 1 year of age, including dermatitis and napkin eruptions.

Warnings:

Long-term continuous topical therapy should be avoided where possible, particularly in infants and children, as adrenal suppressions can occur even without occlusion. The face, more than other areas of the body, may exhibit atrophic changes after prolonged treatment with potent topical corticosteroids. This must be borne in mind when treating such conditions as psoriasis, discoid lupus erythematosus and severe eczema with Betamesone. If applied to the eyelids care is needed to ensure that the preparation does not enter the eye, as glaucoma might result.

If used in childhood or on the face, courses should be limited if possible to five days and occlusion should not be used.

Topical corticosteroids may be hazardous in psoriasis for a number of reasons including rebound relapses, development of tolerance, risk of generalized pustular psoriasis and development of local or systemic toxicity due to impaired barrier function of the skin. If used in psoriasis careful patient supervision is important.

Appropriate antimicrobial therapy should be used whenever treating inflammatory lesions, which have become infected. Any spread of infection requires withdrawal of topical corticosteroid therapy and systemic administration of antimicrobial agents. Bacterial infection is encouraged by the warm, moist conditions induced by occlusive dressings, and the skin should be cleansed before a fresh dressing is applied.

Side Effects:

Prolonged and intensive treatment with highly active corticosteroid preparations may cause local atrophic changes in the skin such as striae, thinning, and dilatation of the superficial blood vessels, particularly when occlusive dressings are used or when skin folds are involved.

As with other topical corticosteroids, prolonged use of large amounts or treatment of extensive areas can result in sufficient systemic absorption to produce the features of hypercorticism and suppression of the HPA axis. These effects are

likely to occur in infants and children, and if occlusive dressings are used. In infants the napkin may act as an occlusive dressing. In rare instances, treatment of psoriasis with corticosteroids (or its withdrawal) is thought to have provoked the pustular form of the disease.

Dosage and Administration:

A small quantity of Betamesone should be applied to the affected area two or three times daily until improvement occurs. It may then be possible to maintain improvement by applying once a day, or even less often. If no improvement is seen within two or four weeks, reassessment of the diagnosis, or referral, may be necessary.

Betamesone cream is especially appropriate for moist or weeping surfaces and Betamesone ointment for dry, lichenified or scaly lesions, but this is not invariably so.

Missed Dose:

If you miss a dose of this medicine, take it as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular dosing schedule. Do not double doses.

Overdose:

If you have taken an overdose or if a child has accidentally swallowed the medicine, proceed immediately to a hospital emergency room and bring the package of the medicine with you.

Presentation:

Betamesone Ointment: Tubes of 15 g.
Betamesone Cream : Tubes of 15 g.

Storage:

- Keep tightly closed at 15-25C.
- Keep out of the reach of children.



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