

PRODUCT LITERATURE

ZONTRON BETASONE CREAM 0.1%W/W

Each g contains

Betamethasone 17-Valerate 1.215 mg
equivalent to Betamethasone 1 mg

Preservative

Methyl Paraben 0.1% w/w

Description

Odourless, white soft cream

Pharmacodynamics Properties

Mechanism of action

Topical corticosteroids act as anti-inflammatory agents via multiple mechanisms to inhibit late phase allergic reactions including decreasing the density of mast cells, decreasing chemotaxis and activation of eosinophils, decreasing cytokine production by lymphocytes, monocytes, mast cells and eosinophils, and inhibiting the metabolism of arachidonic acid.

Pharmacodynamic effects

Topical corticosteroids have anti-inflammatory, antipruritic, and vasoconstrictive properties.

Pharmacokinetics Properties

Absorption

Topical corticosteroids can be systemically absorbed from intact healthy skin. The extent of percutaneous absorption of topical corticosteroids is determined by many factors, including the vehicle and the integrity of the epidermal barrier. Occlusion, inflammation and/or other disease processes in the skin may also increase percutaneous absorption.

Distribution

The use of pharmacodynamic endpoints for assessing the systemic exposure of topical corticosteroids is necessary because circulating levels are well below the level of detection.

Metabolism

Once absorbed through the skin, topical corticosteroids are handled through pharmacokinetic pathways similar to systemically administered corticosteroids.

They are metabolised, primarily in the liver.

Elimination

Topical corticosteroids are excreted by the kidneys. In addition, some corticosteroids and their metabolites are also excreted in the bile.

Indication

Indicated for inflammatory condition responding to steroid therapy

Recommended Dosage

Apply a thin layer on the affected part 2 to 3 times a day until complete resolution of lesions.

Route of Administration

Topical

Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance or any of the excipients listed.

The following conditions should not be treated with betamethasone valerate:

- Untreated cutaneous infections
- Rosacea
- Acne vulgaris
- Pruritus without inflammation
- Perianal and genital pruritus
- Perioral dermatitis

Betamethasone valerate is contraindicated in dermatoses in infants under one year of age, including dermatitis.

Warnings and Precautions

Betamethasone valerate should be used with caution in patients with a history of local hypersensitivity to other corticosteroids. Local hypersensitivity reactions may resemble symptoms of the condition under treatment.

Manifestations of hypercortisolism (Cushing's syndrome) and reversible hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis suppression, leading to glucocorticosteroid insufficiency, can occur in some individuals as a result of increased systemic absorption of topical steroids. If either of the above are observed, withdraw the drug gradually by reducing the frequency of application, or by substituting a less potent corticosteroid.

Abrupt withdrawal of treatment may result in glucocorticosteroid insufficiency

Risk factors for increased systemic effects are:

- Potency and formulation of topical steroid
- Duration of exposure
- Application to a large surface area
- Use on occluded areas of skin e.g. on intertriginous areas or under occlusive dressings (in infants the nappy may act as an occlusive dressing)
- Increasing hydration of the stratum corneum
- Use on thin skin areas such as the face
- Use on broken skin or other conditions where the skin barrier may be impaired
- In comparison with adults, children may absorb proportionally larger amounts of topical corticosteroids and thus be more susceptible to systemic adverse effects. This is because children have an immature skin barrier and a greater surface area to body weight ratio compared with adults.

Paediatric population

In infants and children under 12 years of age, treatment courses should be limited to five days and occlusion should not be used; long-term continuous topical corticosteroid therapy should be avoided where possible, as adrenal suppression can occur.

Infection risk with occlusion

Bacterial infection is encouraged by the warm, moist conditions within skin folds or caused by occlusive dressings. When using occlusive dressings, the skin should be cleansed before a fresh dressing is applied.

Use in Psoriasis

Topical corticosteroids should be used with caution in psoriasis as rebound relapses, development of tolerances, risk of generalised pustular psoriasis and development of local or systemic toxicity due to impaired barrier function of the skin have been reported in some cases. If used in psoriasis careful patient supervision is important.

Application to the face

Prolonged application to the face is undesirable as this area is more susceptible to atrophic changes; therefore, treatment courses should be limited to five days and occlusion should not be used.

Application to the eyelids

If applied to the eyelids, care is needed to ensure that the preparation does not enter the eye, as cataract and glaucoma might result from repeated exposure.

Visual disturbance

Visual disturbance may be reported with systemic and topical corticosteroid use. If a patient presents with symptoms such as blurred vision or other visual disturbances, the patient should be considered for referral to an ophthalmologist for evaluation of possible causes which may include cataract, glaucoma or rare diseases such as central serous chorioretinopathy (CSCR) which have been reported after use of systemic and topical corticosteroids.

Concomitant infection

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 administration of appropriate antimicrobial therapy.

Chronic leg ulcers

Topical corticosteroids are sometimes used to treat the dermatitis around chronic leg ulcers. However, this use may be associated with a higher occurrence of local hypersensitivity reactions and an increased risk of local infection.

Healthcare professionals should be aware that if this product comes into contact with dressings, clothing and bedding, the fabric can be easily ignited with a naked flame. Patients should be warned of this risk and advised to keep away from fire when using this product.

Betasone contains cetostearyl alcohol which may cause local skin reactions (e.g. contact dermatitis).

Interactions with Other Medicaments

Co-administered drugs that can inhibit CYP3A4 (e.g. ritonavir, itraconazole) have been shown to inhibit the metabolism of corticosteroids leading to increased systemic exposure. The extent to which this interaction is clinically relevant depends on the dose and route of administration of the corticosteroids and the potency of the CYP3A4 inhibitor.

Pregnancy and Lactation:**Fertility**

There are no data in humans to evaluate the effect of topical corticosteroids on fertility.

Pregnancy

There are limited data from the use of betamethasone valerate in pregnant women.

Topical administration of corticosteroids to pregnant animals can cause abnormalities of foetal development.

The relevance of this finding to humans has not been established; however, administration of betamethasone valerate during pregnancy should only be considered if the expected benefit to the mother outweighs the risk to the foetus. The minimum quantity should be used for the minimum duration.

Lactation

The safe use of topical corticosteroids during lactation has not been established. It is not known whether topical administration of corticosteroids could result in sufficient systemic absorption to produce detectable amounts in breast milk. Administration of betamethasone valerate during lactation should only be considered if the expected benefit to the mother outweighs the risk to the infant. If used during lactation betamethasone valerate should not be applied to the breasts to avoid accidental ingestion by the infant.

Side Effects / Adverse Reactions

- Infections and Infestations:
-Very rare Opportunistic infection
- Immune System Disorders:
-Very rare Hypersensitivity, generalised rash
- Endocrine Disorders:
-Very rare Hypothalamic-pituitary adrenal (HPA) axis suppression
-Cushingoid features (e.g. moon face, central obesity), delayed weight gain/growth retardation in children, osteoporosis, glaucoma, hyperglycaemia/glucosuria, cataract, hypertension, increased weight/obesity, decreased endogenous cortisol levels, alopecia, trichorrhexis
- Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders:
-Common: Pruritus, local skin burning /skin pain
-Very rare: Allergic contact dermatitis /dermatitis, erythema, rash, urticaria, pustular psoriasis, skin thinning* / skin atrophy*, skin wrinkling*, skin dryness*, striae*, telangiectasias*, pigmentation changes*, hypertrichosis, exacerbation of underlying symptoms
-Skin features secondary to local and/or systemic effects of hypothalamic-pituitary adrenal (HPA) axis suppression.
- General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions
-Very rare: Application site irritation/pain
- Eye disorders:
- Not known Vision, blurred
Concomitant use of Betasone Cream and corticosteroids that are metabolised by CYP3A (e.g. fluticasone propionate or other inhaled or nasal corticosteroids) may increase the risk of development of systemic corticosteroid effects, including Cushing's syndrome and adrenal suppression.
Co-administration with CYP3A-metabolised corticosteroids is not recommended unless the potential benefit to the patient outweighs the risk, in which case patients should be monitored for systemic corticosteroid effects.
Alternative corticosteroids which are less dependent on CYP3A metabolism e.g. beclomethasone for intranasal or inhalational use should be considered, particularly for long-term use.

Overdose and Treatment**Symptoms and signs**

Topically applied betamethasone valerate may be absorbed in sufficient amounts to produce systemic effects. Acute overdosage is very unlikely to occur, however, in the case of chronic overdosage or misuse the features of hypercortisolism may occur.

Treatment

In the event of overdose, betamethasone valerate should be withdrawn gradually by reducing the frequency of application, or by substituting a less potent corticosteroid because of the risk of glucocorticosteroid insufficiency. Further management should be as clinically indicated or as recommended by the national poisons centre, where available.

FOR EXTERNAL USE ONLY**Storage**

Store below 30°C in a dry place, protected from direct light. Keep away from reach of children.

Shelf Life

Expiry date: 2 years from date of manufacture

Packing

Packed in plastic jars of 30 g and 50 g.

Name and Address of Distributor

ZONTRON PHARMACEUTICALS SDN. BHD. (445695-T)

Lot 10 & 11, PERDA Industrial Park,
Lorong IKS Simpang Ampat B,
14100 Simpang Ampat, S.P.S.,
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Product Registration Holder / Manufacturer

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