

		<i>Bepanthen First Aid CMI</i> 12 May 2011
	Consumer Medicine Information	

Bepanthen[®] First Aid

Topical Cream - Chlorhexidine hydrochloride 5.5 mg/g

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Bepanthen First Aid topical cream.

It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. You must weigh the risks of using Bepanthen First Aid cream against the benefits you expect from it.

If you have any concerns about using this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine.

You may need to read it again.

What is Bepanthen First Aid used for

Bepanthen First Aid cream is used for the treatment and prevention of infection in minor cuts, wounds, abrasions, insect bites and minor burns. Bepanthen First Aid is for the treatment of minor burns only – seek medical advice from your doctor or pharmacist for serious burns.

Bepanthen First Aid contains the active ingredient chlorhexidine hydrochloride, which belongs to a group of medicines called antiseptics. Chlorhexidine hydrochloride acts against *Staphylococcus aureus* (the organism most commonly occurring in skin infections). It is also active against other bacteria.

Bepanthen First Aid cream applied to broken skin prevents the growth of the bacteria that might cause an infection, or can kill the bacteria if infection has occurred.

Bepanthen First Aid should not be used to treat skin problems that are unlikely to become infected, such as sunburn.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about whether this medicine is suitable for you.

Bepanthen First Aid cream is a “General Sales Medicine”. It is available without a doctor’s prescription, and can be purchased from any retail outlet.

Before you use Bepanthen First Aid

When you must not use it

1. Do not use Bepanthen First Aid if you have an allergy to:

- any medicine containing *chlorhexidine*
- any medicine containing dexpanthenol
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body; rash, itching or hives on the skin.

2. Do not apply Bepanthen First Aid to a perforated ear drum.

3. Bepanthen First Aid cream must not be applied to the eyes or ears, and must not be applied to mucous membranes (for example, inside the mouth or inside the nostrils).

4. Application of Bepanthen First Aid cream over extensive areas of skin should be avoided.

5. Do not use this medicine after the expiry date printed on the pack or if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

If you are not sure whether you should start using this medicine, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Before you start to use it

1. If you are pregnant or suspect you may be pregnant:-

Bepanthen First Aid cream is not recommended for use over large areas of the body if you are pregnant.

2. If you are breast-feeding:-

Bepanthen First Aid cream may be used by nursing mothers, but is not recommended for use over large areas of skin by women who are breast-feeding.

If Bepanthen First Aid is being used to treat cracked nipples, it should be washed off before breastfeeding.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any you have bought without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines and Bepanthen First Aid cream may interfere with each other. These include:

- other antiseptics (e.g. benzalkonium chloride, triclosan, chloroxylenol, and cetrimide, including brands such as Savlon[®] and Dettol[®])

These medicines may be affected by Bepanthen First Aid or may affect how well it works. Bepanthen First Aid should not be used in combination with other antiseptics.

Your doctor or pharmacist will have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking Bepanthen First Aid.

How to use Bepanthen First Aid

Follow all directions in this leaflet or on the pack carefully.

If you do not understand the instructions below, or on the pack, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.

How to use it

Wash your hands thoroughly before and after using Bepanthen First Aid.

Strict personal hygiene will help avoid the possibility of re-infection.

General Use

Clean the wound and surrounding skin and apply Bepanthen First Aid liberally to the affected area, ensuring the cream completely covers the wound.

Application may be repeated if necessary.

Minor Burns

Immediately apply cold water from a running tap for at least 20 minutes, until the pain lessens. Pat dry carefully and then apply Bepanthen First Aid cream, gently smoothing it over the affected area.

Apply a non-stick dressing if needed to protect the burn.

Application may be repeated.

When to use it

Bepanthen First Aid cream can be used at any time of the day, as necessary.

How long to use it

Use Bepanthen First Aid cream for as long as you think there is a risk of infection.

If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

DO NOT TAKE THE CREAM BY MOUTH.

If you take it

Immediately telephone your doctor or the National Poisons Information Centre (0800 POISON or 0800 764 766) for advice or go to your nearest Accident and Emergency Centre if you think you or anyone else may have taken Bepanthen First Aid cream. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need medical attention.

While you are using Bepanthen First Aid

Things you must do

Discontinue treatment and tell your doctor or pharmacist if you develop a reaction to this product.

See your doctor if the symptoms do not improve after a few days, or if they become worse.

Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are using Bepanthen First Aid cream.

Things you must not do

Do not frequently repeat application of Bepanthen First Aid to the same area of skin as this can lead to skin irritation.

Do not use Bepanthen First Aid cream to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.

Things to be careful of

Bepanthen First Aid is not expected to affect your ability to drive a car or operate machinery.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well or experience discomfort while you are using Bepanthen First Aid.

This medicine helps most people, but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people. All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical attention if you get some of the side effects.

Do not be alarmed by the following list of side effects. You may not experience any of them.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- skin reaction to the cream (stinging, redness, blistering, peeling, swelling, itching or hives)

These effects are usually mild and short-lived.

If any of the following happen, tell your doctor immediately or go to your nearest Accident and Emergency centre:

- sudden signs of allergy such as rash, itching or hives on the skin, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, shortness of breath, wheezing or trouble breathing

These are very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation. All of these side effects are rare.

This is not a complete list of all possible side effects. Others may also occur in some people and there may be some side effects not yet known.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell, even if it is not on this list.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you don't understand anything on this list.

After using Bepanthen First Aid

Storage

Keep your medicine in the original pack until it is time to use it.

If you take the cream out of its packaging it may not keep well.

Keep your cream in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C.

Do not store your medicine in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it on a window sill or in the car.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep the treatment where children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Expiry

The expiry date is marked on the end panel of the carton and is also printed on the crimp at the end of the tube. The date refers to the month and year of expiration e.g. 0807 refers to the eighth month of 2007. The product can be used until the end of this month.

Disposal

If the expiry date has passed, ask your pharmacist what to do with any medicine that is left over.

Discard the medicine out of the reach of children.

Product description

What it looks like

Bepanthen First Aid cream is a white to pale yellow opaque cream presented in a screw-cap tube containing 30 g or 100 g of cream.

Ingredients

The cream contains 5.5 mg chlorhexidine hydrochloride as the active ingredient in each gram of cream. It also contains:

- dexpanthenol (a form of Vitamin B5)
- DL-pantolactone
- cetyl alcohol
- stearyl alcohol
- white soft paraffin
- liquid paraffin
- lanolin (wool fat)
- polyethylene glycol stearate
- purified water

This medicine does not contain colours or fragrances.

Manufacturer

Bepanthen First Aid cream is made in Germany.

Bepanthen First Aid cream is distributed in New Zealand by:

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Bayer New Zealand Limited
Consumer Care
3 Argus Place
Hillcrest
North Shore
AUCKLAND 0627
Toll Free: 0800 847 874

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