

ADVANTAN[®]

Methylprednisolone aceponate 0.1% ointment/cream

Presentation

1 g cream or ointment contains 1 mg (0.1%) methylprednisolone aceponate.

Uses

Actions

After topical application, ADVANTAN[®] suppresses inflammatory and allergic skin reactions as well as reactions associated with hyperproliferation, leading to regression of the objective symptoms (erythema, edema, infiltration, lichenification) and the subjective complaints (itching, burning, pain).

On application of methylprednisolone aceponate in topically effective dosage, the systemic effect is minimal in both man and animals. After large-area treatment of patients with skin disorders, the plasma cortisol values remain within the normal range, circadian cortisol rhythm is maintained and no reduction of cortisol has been ascertained in 24-hour urine.

As for all other glucocorticoids, so far the mechanism of action of methylprednisolone aceponate is not completely understood. It is known that methylprednisolone aceponate itself binds to the intracellular glucocorticoid receptor and this is especially true of the principal metabolite 6 α -methyl - prednisolone -17-propionate, which is formed after cleavage in the skin.

The steroid receptor complex binds to certain regions of DNA, thereby triggering a series of biological effects.

The understanding of the mechanism of the anti-inflammatory action is more precise. Binding of the steroid receptor complex results in induction of macrocortin synthesis. Macrocortin inhibits the release of arachidonic acid and thus the formation of inflammation mediators such as prostaglandins and leukotrienes.

The immunosuppressive action of glucocorticoids can be explained by inhibition of cytokine synthesis and an antimitotic effect, which so far is not well understood.

Inhibition of the synthesis of vasodilating prostaglandins or potentiation of the vasoconstrictive effect of epinephrine finally results in the vasoconstrictive activity of glucocorticoids.

The respective bases are of major importance to the therapeutic effect of the ADVANTAN[®] formulations.

- ADVANTAN[®] cream

As a low-fat formulation with a high water content, ADVANTAN cream is particularly suitable for acute and subacute weeping stages of eczema, for very greasy skin and for use on exposed or hairy parts of the body.

- ADVANTAN[®] ointment

Skin conditions which are neither weeping nor very dry require a base with balanced proportions of fat and water. ADVANTAN[®] ointment is suitable for dry, fissured, scaly or hyperkeratinised skin areas. It should not be used in areas such as axilla, groin or skin folds. ADVANTAN[®] ointment makes the skin slightly greasy without retaining warmth and fluid. Of the three formulations, ADVANTAN[®] ointment has the widest field of use.

Pharmacokinetics

Methylprednisolone aceponate (MPA) becomes available in the skin from all formulations (cream, ointment). The concentration in the stratum corneum and living skin decreases from outside to inside.

Methylprednisolone aceponate is hydrolyzed in the epidermis and dermis to the main metabolite 6 α -methylprednisolone-17-propionate which binds more firmly to the corticoid receptor – an indication of "bioactivation" in the skin.

The degree of percutaneous absorption depends on the state of the skin, the formulation and the conditions of application (open/occlusion). Studies in juvenile and adult patients with neurodermatitis and psoriasis have shown that the percutaneous absorption on open application was only slightly ($\leq 2.5\%$) greater than the percutaneous absorption in volunteers with normal skin (0.5 - 1.5 %).

When the horny layer is removed before the application, the corticoid levels in the skin are about three times higher than after application to intact skin.

After reaching the systemic circulation, the primary hydrolysis product of MPA, 6 α methylprednisolone-17-propionate, is quickly conjugated with glucuronic acid and inactivated as a result.

The metabolites of MPA (main metabolite: 6 α -methylprednisolone-17-propionate-21- glucuronide) are eliminated primarily via the kidneys with a half-life of about 16 hours. Following i.v. administration, excretion of the ¹⁴C-labeled substances with the urine and feces was complete within 7 days. No accumulation of substance or metabolites takes place in the body.

Indications

Atopic dermatitis (endogenous eczema, neurodermatitis), contact eczema, degenerative, dyshidrotic, vulgar eczema, eczema in children.

Dosage and Administration

ADVANTAN[®] is for EXTERNAL TOPICAL USE ONLY and NOT FOR OPHTHALMIC USE.

In general, the ADVANTAN[®] formulation appropriate to the skin condition is applied thinly once per day to the diseased areas of skin.

In general, the duration of use should not exceed 12 weeks in adults and 4 weeks in children.

Contraindications

ADVANTAN[®] is contraindicated in most viral diseases (eg vaccinia, varicella/herpes zoster) and when tuberculous or syphilitic processes and post-vaccination skin reactions are present in the area to be treated. If rosacea, acne vulgaris or perioral dermatitis are present, ADVANTAN[®] must not be applied to the face.

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

Warnings and Precautions

ADVANTAN[®] should not be allowed to come into contact with the eyes when being applied to the face.

Additional specific therapy is required in bacterially infected skin diseases and/or in fungal infections. Any spread of infection may require withdrawal of topical corticosteroid therapy.

If the skin dries out excessively under protracted use of ADVANTAN[®] cream, a switch should be made to ADVANTAN[®] ointment, a formulation which has a higher fat content.

If signs of hypersensitivity develop ADVANTAN[®] should be discontinued and appropriate treatment instituted.

Any of the side effects that have been reported following systemic use of corticosteroids, including adrenal suppression, may also occur with topical corticosteroids, especially in infants and children.

ADVANTAN[®] is a potent steroid formulation, as with other corticosteroids of this type the possibility of hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis suppression resulting from percutaneous absorption of methylprednisolone must be considered when initiating or reviewing therapy. However, to date, no impairment of adrenocortical function has been observed when used on large areas (40 - 60 % of the skin surface) or even occlusive treatment with ADVANTAN[®] for up to 12 weeks in adults or 4 weeks in children.

Nevertheless, for the treatment of large areas duration of use should be kept as brief as possible.

Systemic absorption of topical corticosteroids will be increased if extensive body surface areas are treated or if the occlusive technique is used. Suitable precautions should be taken under these conditions or when long-term use is anticipated, particularly in infants and children. Pediatric patients may demonstrate greater susceptibility to topical corticosteroid-induced HPA axis suppression and Cushing's syndrome than adults because of a larger skin surface area to bodyweight ratio. Use of topical corticosteroids in children should be limited to the least amount required for therapeutic effect. Chronic corticosteroid therapy may interfere with the growth and development of children.

Local atrophy, telangiectasia and striae may occur after prolonged treatment or excessive application. Treatment should be discontinued if symptoms such as cutaneous atrophy occur. Prolonged use on flexures and in intertriginous areas is undesirable.

ADVANTAN[®] cream or ointment should not be used around the eyes. The use of topical corticosteroids on the face can exacerbate rosacea and lead to peri-orofacial dermatitis. Patients should be warned against using ADVANTAN[®] on the face except on medical advice and any use on the face should be restricted to short periods.

As known from systemic corticoids, glaucoma may also develop from using local corticoids (e.g. after large-dosed or extensive application over a prolonged period, occlusive dressing techniques, or application to the skin around the eyes).

Preclinical safety data

In systemic tolerance studies following repeated subcutaneous and dermal administration MPA showed the action profile of a typical glucocorticoid. It can be concluded from these results that following therapeutic use of ADVANTAN[®] no side-effects other than those typical of glucocorticoids are to be expected even under extreme conditions such as application over a large surface area and/or occlusion.

Specific tumorigenicity studies using MPA have not been carried out. Knowledge concerning the structure, the pharmacological effect mechanism and the results from systemic tolerance studies with long-term administration do not indicate any increase in the risk of tumor occurrence. As systemically effective immunosuppressive exposure is not reached with dermal application of ADVANTAN[®] under the recommended conditions of use, no influence on the occurrence of tumors is to be expected.

Neither *in vitro* investigations for detection of gene mutations on bacteria and mammalian cells nor *in vitro* and *in vivo* investigations for detection of chromosome and gene mutations gave any indication of a genotoxic potential of MPA.

Animal studies with MPA have shown embryo-lethal defects in rats dosed subcutaneously during the period of organogenesis at doses greater than 1mg/kg/day and in rabbits following dermal application at doses greater than 0.25mg/kg/day. No teratogenic effects were observed in rabbits, but in rats the incidences of ventricular septal defects and of cleft palate were increased at subcutaneous doses greater than 1 and 10 mg/kg/day. Similar embryo-lethal and teratogenic effects have been found with other corticosteroids and while not considered relevant to humans, particular care should be taken when prescribing ADVANTAN[®] during pregnancy.

In investigations into the local tolerance of MPA and ADVANTAN[®] formulations on the skin and the mucosa, no findings other than the topical side-effects known for glucocorticoids were recorded. MPA showed no sensitizing potential on the skin of the guinea-pig.

Effects on the ability to drive and use machines

There is no effect.

Pregnancy and lactation

Use in Pregnancy

Animal experimental studies with glucocorticosteroids have shown reproductive toxicity (refer to the Warnings and Precautions section of this leaflet).

A number of epidemiological studies suggest that there could be increased risk of oral clefts among new-borns of women who were treated with systemic glucocorticosteroids during the first trimester of pregnancy. Oral clefts are a rare disorder and if systemic glucocorticosteroids are teratogenic, these may account for an increase of only one or two cases per 1000 women treated while pregnant. Data concerning topical glucocorticosteroid use during pregnancy are insufficient, however, a lower risk might be expected since systemic availability of topically applied glucocorticosteroids is very low.

Reduced placental and birth weight have been recorded in animals and humans after long-term treatment with topical corticosteroids. Since the possibility of suppression of the adrenal cortex in the newborn baby after long-term treatment must be considered, the needs of the mother must be carefully weighed against the risk to the foetus when prescribing these drugs. Maternal pulmonary oedema has been reported, with tocolysis and fluid overload.

As a general rule, topical preparations containing corticoids should not be applied during the first trimester of pregnancy. The clinical indication for treatment with ADVANTAN[®] must be carefully reviewed and the benefits weighed against the risks in pregnant and lactating women. In particular, treatment of large areas or prolonged use (greater than 4 weeks) must be avoided.

Use in Lactation

Nursing mothers should not be treated on the breasts.

Adverse Effects

Local concomitant symptoms such as itching, burning, erythema or vesiculation may occur in isolated cases under treatment with ADVANTAN[®]. In clinical studies 5.4% of patients treated with ADVANTAN[®] cream, and 4.7% of patients treated with ADVANTAN ointment experience such symptoms. Withdrawals associated with adverse events occurred in less than 1.5 % patients.

The following reactions may occur when topical preparations containing corticoids are applied to large areas of the body (about 10% and more) or for prolonged periods of time (more than 4 weeks), particularly when an occlusive dressing is used: local symptoms such as atrophy of the skin, telangiectasia, striae, acneform changes of the skin and systemic effects of the corticoid due to absorption. During the clinical investigation, none of these side effects occurred under ADVANTAN[®] on treatment up to 12 weeks (adults) and 4 weeks (children).

As with other corticoids for topical application, the following side effects may occur in rare cases: Folliculitis, hypertrichosis, perioral dermatitis, skin discolouration, allergic skin reactions to any of the ingredients of the formulations.

Interactions

None so far known.

Overdosage

- Symptoms of intoxication

Results from acute toxicity studies do not indicate that any risk of acute intoxication is to be expected following a single dermal application of an overdose (application over a large area under conditions favorable to absorption) or inadvertent oral ingestion.

Pharmaceutical Precautions

ADVANTAN[®] cream/ointment

Shelf life: 3 years

Special precautions for storage: Store below 25°C

Medicine Classification

Prescription Medicine

Package Quantities

Tubes containing 15g.

Tubes made of pure aluminum, interior wall coated with epoxy resin, and with a polyester-based external coating, fold seal ring is made of polyamide-based heat sealable material. The screw cap is made of high density polyethylene.

Further Information

List of excipients

Cream: decyl oleate, glycerol monostearate 40 - 55 %, cetostearyl alcohol, hard fat, caprylic-capric-stearic acid triglyceride (Softisan 378), polyoxyl-40-stearate, glycerol 85 %, disodium edetate, benzyl alcohol, butyl hydroxytoluene, purified water.

Ointment: beeswax (white), paraffin, liquid, Dehymuls E, paraffin (white soft), purified water

Nature and contents of the container

Ointment: Tubes of pure aluminium, interior wall coated with epoxy resin, and with a polyester-based external coating, fold seal ring is made of polyamide based heat sealable material. The screw cap is made of high density polyethylene.

Instructions for use/handling

Store all drugs properly and keep them out of reach of children.

Name and Address

Sponsor

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