

Data Sheet

ELDOQUIN

The sponsor (pharmaceutical company) of this product has advised Medsafe that this product has either been discontinued or is no longer marketed in New Zealand.

Therefore this Data Sheet may not be up to date.

Medsafe has elected to leave it on this web site because supplies of this product may still be available, and health professionals should continue to have access to this product information in the interim.

You may be able to find a more current Data Sheet containing the same medicine by returning to the main Data Sheet page and searching by ingredient name.

Hydroquinone 2% Cream

Presentation

2% cream

Uses

Actions

Hyperpigmented skin can be lightened by using a product containing hydroquinone as its skin bleaching agent. Hydroquinone works by slowing down the production of melanin pigment in the skin. As less and less melanin is produced the darkened skin gradually fades to match normal skin.

Pharmacokinetics

Information of the absorption, distribution and elimination of hydroquinone is not available. The topical application of hydroquinone produces a reversible depigmentation of the skin by inhibition of the enzymatic oxidation of tyrosine to 3,4-dihydroxyphenylalanine (dopa) and suppression of other melanocyte metabolic processes.

Indications

For the gradual bleaching of hyperpigmented skin conditions such as chloasma, melasma, freckles, senile lentiginos and other unwanted areas of melanin hyperpigmentation.

Dosage and Administration

Apply a thin film twice daily to the area in need of bleaching or as directed by physician. Eldoquin should be rubbed into the skin well. Make-up can be applied after the treated area has dried. Most discolorations begin to lighten after four weeks of treatment but it may take longer. After desired bleaching, use only as needed to maintain results. After clearing and during maintenance therapy, sun exposure should be avoided on bleached skin by application of a sunscreen or by wearing protective clothing to prevent darkening from recurring.

Contraindications

Prior history of sensitivity or allergic reaction to these products or any of the ingredients. The safety of topical hydroquinone use during pregnancy or in children (12 years and under) has not been established.

Warnings and Precautions

1. Test for skin sensitivity before using by applying the product to an unbroken patch of skin. If no redness or itching occurs within 24 hours, begin treatment.
2. If no bleaching effect is noted after three months of treatment, use of hydroquinone products should be discontinued.
3. Lightening effect of hydroquinone may not be noticeable when used on very dark skin.
4. These products are formulated for use as skin bleaching agents and should not be used for the prevention of sunburn.

5. Warning: Contains sodium metabisulphite, a sulphite that may cause serious allergic type reactions (e.g. hives, itching, wheezing, anaphylaxis, severe asthma attacks) in certain susceptible persons.

Adverse Effects

No systemic adverse reactions have been reported. Occasional hypersensitivity (localized contact dermatitis) may occur, in which case the medication should be discontinued and the physician notified immediately.

Interactions

None known.

Overdosage

There are no reports of overdosage using topical hydroquinone preparations.

Adults ingesting 300-500 mg of hydroquinone daily for 3-5 months have reported no toxic adverse effects. However, single oral doses of 5 to 12 grams of hydroquinone have produced symptoms similar to those following phenol overdosage, including tremors, seizures and occasionally, severe hemolytic anemia.

Systemic overdosage of hydroquinone, like phenol, should be treated with measures intended to reduce absorption of the drug, including administration of activated charcoal and gastric lavage, and supportive therapy.

Pharmaceutical Precautions

Recommended for night time or indoor use.

Store at 25°C (77°F), excursion permitted to 15°C-30°C (59°F-86°F).

Medicine Classification

Pharmacy medicine

Package Quantities

Eldoquin 1/2 oz. (14.18 gram) tube and 1 oz. (28.35 gram) tube

Further Information

Nil.

Name and Address

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Date of Preparation

9 June 2010