

DATA SHEET

Egocort Cream 1%

Hydrocortisone 1% w/w in an occlusive base

Presentation

Egocort Cream 1%: a non-greasy cream with an ointment like appearance.

Uses

Actions

Hydrocortisone is a corticosteroid that, when applied topically, often produces dramatic suppression of lesions having inflammation as a prominent feature. Such lesions include eczema, various forms of dermatitis, psoriasis and intertrigo.

Pharmacokinetics

When applied topically, hydrocortisone is absorbed through the skin allowing penetration to deeper layers. Absorption is aided by use of occlusive dressings due to the hydration of the skin layers that results.

Indications

EGOCORT Cream is indicated as adjunctive therapy for the symptomatic relief of the inflammatory manifestations of corticosteroid responsive dermatoses.

Dosage and administration

Apply a thin, even layer one to two times a day.

Contraindications

EGOCORT Cream is contraindicated when viral, fungal, bacterial or parasitic infections are present at the lesion site. Use is also contraindicated where pruritus is psychogenic or due to internal organ disease or skin cancer is present.

Hypersensitivity to the cream or any of its constituents (See Further Information), dermatitis induced by an adverse reaction to corticosteroids, or weeping at the treatment site are also contraindications to the use of EGOCORT cream.

Warnings and precautions

Although the absorption of hydrocortisone into the systemic circulation is small, the amount absorbed may be increased significantly if prolonged administration occurs or extensive areas are treated. This is particularly so in infants and young children. Continuous treatment for more than three weeks should be avoided on patients under 3 years old, while treatment on infants should not exceed 7 days. The use of occlusive dressings may also increase the amount of hydrocortisone reaching the systemic circulation. Nappies act as occlusive dressings.

Use for periods exceeding four weeks may cause atrophic striae. Prolonged use on flexures and in intertriginous areas is undesirable.

Do not apply to eyelids.

Use in pregnancy: the safe use of topical corticosteroids during pregnancy has not been established, therefore, the decision to use a hydrocortisone preparation to treat a pregnant woman must be decided on the basis of benefit versus potential risk.

Use in lactation. It is not known whether topical corticosteroids appear in breast milk, however, problems in humans have not been documented. The decision to use a hydrocortisone preparation to treat a nursing mother must be decided on the basis of benefit to the mother versus potential risk to the child. Topical corticosteroids should not be applied to the breasts prior to nursing.

Use in the elderly. Although appropriate studies with topical corticosteroids have not been performed in the elderly, elderly-specific problems are not expected to limit their usefulness. Elderly patients may, however, be more likely to have pre-existing skin atrophy secondary to aging. Purpura and skin lacerations that may raise the skin and subcutaneous tissue from deep fascia may be more likely to occur with the use of topical corticosteroids in elderly patients. Therefore, topical corticosteroids should be used infrequently, for brief periods, or under close medical supervision in patients with evidence of pre-existing skin atrophy.

Adverse effects

Adverse effects associated with topical application of EGOCORT Cream are unlikely, significant abuse of the product being required. If effects occur, they are likely to be topical such as cutaneous atrophy, petechiae, steroid acne, contact allergy and delay of the wound healing process. The skin of the face, genitals, and pilus skin are especially sensitive to local adverse effects.

Systemic effects may occur when relatively large amounts of hydrocortisone are absorbed, with inhibition of the adrenal cortex being important to consider when long-term treatment is envisaged. Absorption is influenced by amount used, duration of treatment and nature of the skin. The risks are greatest when EGOCORT cream is to be applied under occlusion, to large surfaces, as long term treatment and/or to children.

Interactions

Nil.

Overdosage

Overdosage may result in cutaneous atrophy, petechiae, steroid acne or systemic effects of glucocorticoid overdose. The preparation should be stopped immediately and the patient monitored for signs of withdrawal and treated appropriately.

Pharmaceutical precautions

Store tightly closed below 25⁰C. Protect from light and moisture. Do not refrigerate. Keep out of reach of children.

Medicine classification

Pharmacist Only Medicine.

Package quantities

EGOCORT Cream: 15g

Further information

Hydrocortisone is 11 β ,17 α ,21-trihydroxy-pregn-4-ene-3,20-dione. It has a chemical formula and molecular weight of C₂₁H₃₀O₅ and 362.5 respectively.

EGOCORT cream contains hydrocortisone, benzyl alcohol, propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, cetyl alcohol, cetostearyl alcohol, ethoxylated cetyl alcohol and glyceryl monostearate.

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