

BETA SCALP APPLICATION

Betamethasone valerate 0.1% w/w



CONSUMER MEDICINE INFORMATION

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about BETA SCALP APPLICATION. It does not contain all the information available on this medicine. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you using BETA SCALP APPLICATION against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

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

Keep this leaflet. You may want to read it again.

What BETA SCALP APPLICATION is used for and how it works

Your BETA SCALP APPLICATION contains the active ingredient betamethasone valerate. It belongs to a group of medicines known as topical corticosteroids. "Topical" means that they are applied onto the skin. Topical corticosteroids are used to help reduce the inflammation that causes the redness and itchiness in a variety of conditions (they are not "anabolic" steroids which are sometimes misused by athletes).

BETA SCALP APPLICATION is used to treat conditions of the scalp, such as psoriasis and the inflammation associated with severe dandruff.

Your doctor may, however, have prescribed BETA SCALP APPLICATION for another reason. Ask your doctor if you have any

questions about why BETA SCALP APPLICATION has been prescribed for you.

There is no evidence that BETA SCALP APPLICATION is addictive.

BETA SCALP APPLICATION is available on prescription from your doctor.

Before you use BETA SCALP APPLICATION

When you must not use it

Do not use BETA SCALP APPLICATION if you are allergic to betamethasone valerate or any other ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Symptoms of an allergic reaction may include unusual reddening of the face, skin rash or hives, itching on the skin, short of breath, wheezing or finding it difficult to breathe, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body.

Do not use BETA SCALP APPLICATION as treatment for the following skin conditions:

- **Infections of the scalp**
- **viral skin conditions** e.g. herpes, chickenpox
- **fungal skin infections**
- **ulcerative conditions.**

If your doctor advises the use of BETA SCALP APPLICATION to treat one of the above skin complications, it is important you follow your doctor's instructions carefully.

Do not use BETA SCALP APPLICATION in children under one year of age.

Do not apply BETA SCALP APPLICATION to the face, unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not use BETA SCALP APPLICATION to treat any other skin conditions you may have.

Your doctor has prescribed BETA SCALP APPLICATION for the condition you showed them. If you use it on any other skin conditions, it may make them worse.

Do not use BETA SCALP APPLICATION after the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack.

Do not use BETA SCALP APPLICATION if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

Do not let BETA SCALP APPLICATION enter your eyes.

Before you use it

Tell your doctor if:

- You have had an allergic reaction to any other medicine used to treat your current condition or to any other cream, ointment or scalp application
- You are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding
- You require treatment for a skin condition on your face
- You have any other skin problems or conditions.

Taking other medicines

If you are taking any other medicines, including any you get without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop, tell your doctor or pharmacist.

Your doctor or pharmacist has more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while using BETA SCALP APPLICATION.

How to use BETA SCALP APPLICATION properly

How much to apply

Your doctor will tell you how much BETA SCALP APPLICATION you need to apply each day. It is important that you apply BETA SCALP APPLICATION only as directed by your doctor.

Do not use more than the recommended amount. Applying more than this may allow the active ingredient in this medication to pass through the scalp and into the blood stream. This could affect other parts of the body and may result in unwanted side effects.

For adults, BETA SCALP APPLICATION is usually applied to the scalp twice a day (once in the morning and once at night). **Your doctor may tell you to apply the application differently to this. If so, it is important you follow their instructions.**

When applying the application to your scalp, be careful that you do not let any run into your eyes.

How long to apply it

Your doctor will advise you how long to use BETA SCALP APPLICATION.

Do not use BETA SCALP APPLICATION for any longer than your doctor has prescribed. Using this type of medicine for a long time may affect the normal production of steroids in your body and be harmful to your health.

Duration of treatment will depend on your condition and can vary between a few days to a longer period of time. If your scalp condition does not clear within a few weeks, tell your doctor.

If you forget to apply it

If you miss one or more doses of BETA SCALP APPLICATION, apply a single dose again as soon as you remember and continue using until

the course of the treatment is completed. **Do not apply two doses at once to make up for a missed dose.**

If you have trouble remembering to use your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

While you are using BETA SCALP APPLICATION

Things you must do

Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are using BETA SCALP APPLICATION.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist that you are using BETA SCALP APPLICATION before you start any new medicines.

Tell your doctor if you develop a skin rash, hives, or any other skin conditions while you are using BETA SCALP application.

Tell your doctor if you become pregnant while using BETA SCALP APPLICATION.

If you are going to have surgery, tell the surgeon or anaesthetist that you are using BETA SCALP APPLICATION.

If you are going to have any blood tests, tell your doctor that you are using BETA SCALP APPLICATION.

Visit your doctor regularly so they can check on your progress, especially if your doctor has prescribed BETA SCALP APPLICATION for psoriasis.

Things you must not do

Do not use BETA SCALP APPLICATION to treat any other complaints or skin conditions unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not allow the scalp application to run into your eyes. If the application does accidentally enter your eyes, rinse your eye(s) thoroughly with water.

Do not give this medicine to anyone else, even if their symptoms seem similar to yours.

Side effects

Most people find that if they use this application correctly they will not experience any side effects. All medicines can however, have some unwanted effects in some people. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following effects:

- increased hair growth
- thinning of the skin
- changes in the colour of your skin
- increased severity in other untreated skin infections.

Applying BETA SCALP APPLICATION over long periods of time, or using more than the recommended dose, or covering the treated area with a dressing may increase the chance of developing side effects.

If your scalp condition gets worse during treatment, stop applying BETA SCALP APPLICATION and tell your pharmacist or doctor as soon as possible.

The list of side effects is not complete. If you experience any of these side effects, or any other undesired effect please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

In case of overdose

You should only apply the amount of BETA SCALP APPLICATION that you have been prescribed.

If you think that you, or if anyone else, has swallowed BETA SCALP APPLICATION by mistake, or used too much BETA SCALP APPLICATION,

immediately contact your doctor or the National Poisons Information Centre (0800 POISON or 0800 764 766) or go to the Emergency department at your nearest hospital. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention. Take the container of BETA SCALP APPLICATION with you if you can.

Keep telephone numbers for these places handy.

Storage conditions

Keep your BETA SCALP APPLICATION in the container until it is time to use it.

Store below 25°C and out of reach of children. Avoid exposure to heat, light and moisture.

Do not store BETA SCALP APPLICATION, or any other medicine, in the bathroom or near a sink.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop using BETA SCALP APPLICATION or if it has passed the expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with the remaining medicine.

Product Description

What BETA SCALP APPLICATION looks like

BETA SCALP APPLICATION is an almost clear, colourless liquid.

Ingredients

BETA SCALP APPLICATION contains 0.1% w/w of the active ingredient betamethasone valerate.

BETA SCALP APPLICATION also contains isopropyl alcohol, sodium hydroxide, carbomer and purified water.

If you want to know more

Should you have any questions regarding this product, please contact your doctor or pharmacist.

Who supplies this medicine

Distributed in New Zealand by:
Mylan New Zealand Ltd,
P O Box 11183, Ellerslie,
Auckland.

Telephone: (09) 579 2792

Date of information

21 April 2010
(Based on datasheet dated 21 April 2010)