NEW ZEALAND DATA SHEET

1 FUCICORT® Cream
Fucicort® fusidic acid 20 mg/g and betamethasone 1 mg/g (as valerate) cream

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION
Each gram of cream contains active ingredients fusidic acid 20mg and betamethasone (as valerate) 1mg.

Excipients of known effect: cetostearyl alcohol 72 mg/g and chlorocresol 1 mg/g.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM
Fucicort® is a white cream containing fusidic acid and betamethasone valerate in a water miscible base.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications
Fucicort® is indicated in inflammatory dermatoses where bacterial infection is present or likely to occur. Inflammatory dermatoses include atopic eczema, discoid eczema, seborrheic dermatitis, contact dermatitis, lichen simplex chronicus, psoriasis, discoid lupus erythematosus.

4.2 Dosage and method of administration
Uncovered lesions:
A small quantity should be applied to the affected area twice daily until a satisfactory response is obtained. A single treatment course should not normally exceed 2 weeks.

Covered lesions:
In the more resistant lesions the effect of Fucicort® cream can be enhanced by occlusion with polyethylene film. Overnight occlusion is usually adequate.

4.3 Contraindications
- Hypersensitivity to fusidic acid/sodium fusidate, betamethasone valerate or to any of the excipients (see section 6.1).
- Primary skin infections caused by fungi, virus or bacteria, either untreated or uncontrolled by appropriate treatment (see section 4.4)
- Systemic fungal infection.
- Skin manifestations in relation to tuberculosis, either untreated or uncontrolled by appropriate therapy.
- Perioral dermatitis and rosacea.
- Ulcerative conditions.
- The use of fluorinated steroids is contraindicated on the face.

4.4 Special warnings and special precautions for use

Long-term continuous topical therapy with Fucidort® should be avoided.

Although rare, hypersensitivity reactions to fusidic acid have been reported. Should hypersensitivity occur, applications should be stopped immediately.

When steroids and particularly fluorinated steroids are applied for long periods of time (more than four weeks) the occurrence of atrophic striae is likely.

Depending on the application site, possible systemic absorption of betamethasone valerate should always be considered during treatment with Fucidort®.

Due to the content of corticosteroid, Fucidort® should be used with care near the eyes. Avoid getting Fucidort® into the eyes (see section 4.8).

Reversible hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis suppression may occur following systemic absorption of topical corticosteroids, especially under occlusion with weekly doses of over 30g. Routine steroid precautions must be observed particularly if the patient is stressed (e.g. following surgery).

Due to the content of betamethasone valerate, prolonged topical use of Fucidort® may cause skin atrophy.

Visual disturbance may be reported with systemic and topical corticosteroid use. If a patient presents with symptoms such as blurred vision or other visual disturbances, the patient should be considered for referral to an ophthalmologist for evaluation of possible causes which may include cataract, glaucoma or rare diseases such as central serous chorioretinopathy (CSCR) which have been reported after use of systemic and topical corticosteroid.

Prolonged use on flexures and intertriginous areas is undesirable.

Bacterial resistance has been reported to occur with the topical use of fusidic acid. As with all antibiotics, extended or recurrent use of fusidic acid may increase the risk of developing antibiotic resistance. Limiting therapy with topical fusidic acid and betamethasone valerate to no more than 14 days at a time will minimise the risk of developing resistance. This also prevents the risk that the immunosuppressive action of corticosteroid might mask any potential symptoms of infections due to antibiotic-resistant bacteria.
Due to the content of corticosteroid having immunosuppressant effect, Fucicort® may be associated with increased susceptibility to infection, aggravation of existing infection, and activation of latent infection. It is advised to switch to systemic treatment if infection cannot be controlled with topical treatment.

Fucicort® contains cetostearyl alcohol and chlorocresol as excipients. Cetostearyl alcohol may cause local skin reactions (e.g. contact dermatitis) and chlorocresol may cause allergic reactions.

4.5 Interactions with other medicinal products and other forms of interactions
No interaction studies have been performed. Interactions with systemically administered medicinal products are considered minimal.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy
Fusidic acid:
No effects during pregnancy are anticipated, since systemic exposure to fusidic acid is negligible.

Betamethasone valerate:
There are no or limited amount of data from the use of topical betamethasone valerate in pregnant women. Studies in animals have shown reproductive toxicity.

Fucicort® should not be used during pregnancy unless the clinical condition of the woman requires treatment with fusidic acid and betamethasone valerate.

Breastfeeding
No effects on the breastfed newborn/infant are anticipated since the systemic exposure of topically applied fusidic acid and betamethasone valerate to a limited area of skin of the breastfeeding woman is negligible.

Fucicort® can be used during breastfeeding but it is recommended to avoid applying Fucicort® on the breast.

Fertility
There are no clinical studies with Fucicort® regarding fertility.

4.7 Effect on ability to drive and use machines
Fucicort® has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines.

4.8 Undesirable effects
The estimation of the frequency of undesirable effects is based on a pooled analysis of data from clinical studies and spontaneous reporting.

The most frequently reported adverse reaction during treatment is pruritus.
Undesirable effects are listed by MedDRA SOC and the individual undesirable effects are listed starting with the most frequently reported. Within each frequency grouping, adverse reactions are presented in the order of decreasing seriousness.

**Very common ≥1/10**
**Common ≥1/100 and < 1/10**
**Uncommon ≥1/1,000 and <1/100**
**Rare ≥1/10,000 and <1/1,000**
**Very rare <1/10,000**

### Immune system disorders
| Uncommon (≥1/1,000 and <1/100) | Hypersensitivity |

### Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders
| Uncommon (≥1/1,000 and <1/100) | Dermatitis contact  
Eczema (condition aggravated)  
Skin burning sensation  
Pruritus  
Dry skin |
| Rare (≥1/10,000 and <1/1,000) | Erythema  
Urticaria  
Rash (including rash erythematous and rash generalised) |

### General disorders and administration site conditions
| Uncommon (≥1/1,000 and <1/100) | Application site pain  
Application site irritation |
| Rare (≥1/10,000 and <1/1,000) | Application site swelling  
Application site vesicles |

Systemic undesirable class effects of corticosteroids like betamethasone valerate include adrenal suppression especially during prolonged topical administration (see section 4.4).

Raised intra-ocular pressure and glaucoma may also occur after topical use of corticosteroids near the eyes, particularly with prolonged use and in patients predisposed to developing glaucoma (see section 4.4).

Dermatological undesirable class effects of potent corticosteroids include: Atrophy, dermatitis (incl. dermatitis contact and dermatitis acneiform), perioral dermatitis, skin striae, telangiectasia, rosacea, erythema, hypertrichosis, hyperhydrosis, and depigmentation. Ecchymosis may also occur with prolonged use of topical corticosteroids.
Class effects for corticosteroids have been uncommonly reported for Fucicort® as described in the frequency listing above.

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions
Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicine is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicine. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions https://nzphvc.otago.ac.nz/reporting/.

4.9 Overdose
For topically applied fusidic acid, no information concerning potential symptoms and signs due to overdose administration is available. Cushing's syndrome and adrenocortical insufficiency may develop following topical application of corticosteroids in large amounts and for more than three weeks.

Systemic consequences of an overdose of the active substances after accidental oral intake are unlikely to occur. The amount of fusidic acid in one tube of Fucicort® does not exceed the oral daily dose of systemic treatment. A single oral overdose of corticosteroids is rarely a clinical problem.

For advice on the management of overdose please contact the National Poisons Centre 0800 POISON (0800 764 766).

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties
ATC code: D07CC01
Pharmacotherapeutic group: Corticosteroids, potent, combinations with antibiotics, dermatological preparations.

Mechanism of action
Fucicort® cream is a combination preparation containing the corticosteroid betamethasone valerate and the antibiotic, fusidic acid.

Betamethasone belongs to the group of potent corticosteroid (class III) and exerts its effect by suppressing local immunoreactions, including vasodilatation, swelling and soreness.

Fusidic acid inhibits bacterial protein synthesis. Fusidic acid binds to elongation factor G (EF-G), preventing release of the EF-G-guanosine diphosphate complex, which stall the protein synthesis. Fusidic acid has bacteriostatic activity at low concentrations but bactericidal activity at high concentrations.
Susceptibility
Fusidic acid is primarily active against Gram-positive bacteria, in particular *S. aureus* including MRSA.
Fusidic acid is also active against *Streptococcus spp.*, *Corynebacterium minutissimum*, some *Neisseria spp.*, and certain *Clostridium spp.*

Resistance
In *S. aureus* two main types of resistance mechanisms have been characterized. The first is caused by mutations in the fusidic acid binding site of EF-G (*fusA*) and the other involves horizontal acquisition of determinants encoding *FusB*–type resistance determinants (*fusB* and *fusC*) that binds to EF-G.

Due to its unique molecular structure and distinct mode of action, target specific cross-resistance with other classes of antibacterial agents has not been detected.

Naturally resistant species
Most gram negative bacteria (including *Haemophilus influenza*, Enterobactericeae such as *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella pneumonia* and *Pseudomonas spp.*) are inherently resistant to fusidic acid.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties
There are no data that accurately define the pharmacokinetics of Fucicort® following topical administration in human.

*In vivo* and *in vitro* studies suggest that there is only negligible systemic absorption of topically administered fusidic acid. *In vitro* studies show that fusidic acid can penetrate intact human skin. The degree of penetration depends on factors such as the duration of exposure to fusidic acid and the condition of the skin. Fusidic acid is excreted mainly in the bile with little excreted in the urine.

The concentration of fusidic acid achieved in the skin is well above the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) required for sensitive *S. aureus* strains.

As there is only negligible systemic absorption of topically administered fusidic acid, the amount of fusidic acid likely to be distributed, biotransformed and eliminated from the systemic circulation following appropriate topical application is therefore of little clinical significance.

Betamethasone valerate is absorbed following topical administration. The degree of absorption is dependent on various factors including skin condition and site of application. Occlusion of the treated area under plastic material strongly increases the absorption. The amount absorbed is metabolized in the liver and excreted in the urine.
6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients
Macrogol cetostearyl ether (Cetomacrogol 1000)
Cetostearyl alcohol
Chlorocresol
Liquid paraffin
Monobasic sodium phosphate dehydrate
White soft paraffin
A-all-rac-α-tocopherol
Sodium hydroxide
Purified water

6.2 Incompatibilities
Not applicable

6.3 Shelf life
3 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage
Store at or below 30°C

6.5 Nature and contents of container
15 g

6.6 Special precautions for disposal
Any unused medicine or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local legislation.

7 MEDICINE CLASSIFICATION
Prescription Medicine

8 SPONSOR
LEO Pharma Ltd
Auckland
New Zealand
Ph: 0800 497 456

9 DATE OF FIRST APPROVAL
31 July 1986
Summary table of changes

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