

Summary of Product Characteristics

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Hydrocortisone 1 % w/w Cream

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Hydrocortisone 1 % w/w Cream contains Hydrocortisone 1% w/w.

Excipients: Contains 0.1% w/w chlorocresol and 7.2% w/w cetostearyl alcohol.

For a full list of excipients, see section 6.1

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Cream

A smooth white aqueous cream.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic Indications

Hydrocortisone 1 % w/w Cream is recommended for the topical treatment of contact dermatitis, irritant dermatitis, insect bite reactions, mild to moderate eczema.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Hydrocortisone 1 % w/w Cream is applied topically.

Recommended dosage schedules:

Adults: Use sparingly over a small area once or twice daily for a maximum period of one week.

Children: Hydrocortisone 1 % w/w Cream is not recommended for use in children under 12 years without medical supervision.

4.3 Contraindications

1. Hydrocortisone 1 % w/w Cream is contraindicated for use on the eyes or face, the ano-genital area or on broken or infected skin including cold sores, acne and athletes' foot.
2. Use in the presence of untreated infections of bacterial, viral, tuberculous or fungal origin.
3. Use in acne vulgaris, acne rosacea or in perioral dermatoses.
4. Hypersensitivity to the preparation.
5. Use in plaque psoriasis.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Hydrocortisone 1 % w/w Cream is not recommended for use in children under 12 years, except under medical supervision. Prolonged use of uninterrupted occlusion or use with extensive occlusive dressings may suppress adrenocortical function.

In general, continuous treatment with topical steroids for longer than three weeks should be avoided in patients under the age of three years because of the possibility of adrenocortical suppression and growth retardation.

Continuous application without interruption will result in local atrophy of the skin, striae, and superficial vascular dilatation, particularly on the face.

The inactive ingredients, cetostearyl alcohol may cause local skin reactions (e.g. contact dermatitis) and chlorocresol may cause allergic reactions.

Prolonged use in the management of acne vulgaris should be avoided.

Use in psoriasis may lead to generalisation, excessive systemic absorption and rebound relapse on cessation of use.

Pheochromocytoma crisis, which can be fatal, has been reported after administration of corticosteroids. Corticosteroids should only be administered to patients with suspected or identified pheochromocytoma after an appropriate risk/benefit evaluation (see section 4.8).

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

None known.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Topical administration of corticosteroids to pregnant animals can cause abnormalities of foetal development. The relevance of this finding to human beings has not been established. The product should not be used in pregnancy unless considered essential by the physician, and then over as small an area and for as short a time as possible.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

No adverse effects reported.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Side effects with Hydrocortisone 1 % w/w Cream are very rare. Local irritation, itching and burning may occur.

Striae may occur especially in intertriginous areas.

Skin and subcutaneous disorders: Frequency not known: Urticaria

Endocrine disorders: Frequency not known: Pheochromocytoma crisis

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via HPRA Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL - Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 6764971; Fax: +353 1 6762517. Website: www.hpra.ie; e-mail: medsafety@hpra.ie.

4.9 Overdose

No special procedures or antidote are likely to be necessary.

Topical overdosage may occur where large amounts are applied, or where smaller amounts are applied in occlusive conditions. Overdose ultimately leads to adrenocortical suppression. Treatment is by gradual reduction of the amounts used. The side effects of overuse i.e. skin atrophy, striae etc. may not be reversed.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

ATC code: D07AA02 Hydrocortisone is an anti-inflammatory steroid.

Hydrocortisone, as a mild topical corticosteroid, is used in the treatment of many skin conditions such as eczema, atopic dermatitis, contact dermatitis, seborrhoeic dermatitis and some forms of psoriasis. When administered by topical application, particularly under an occlusive dressing or when the skin is broken, sufficient corticosteroid may be absorbed to give systemic effects.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

The literature states that absorption does occur through the skin, particularly denuded skin. This absorption is not usually of clinical significance as hydrocortisone topically has only rarely been associated with side effects resulting from pituitary-adrenal suppression.

Topically applied steroids may be absorbed to a significant extent if applied to broken skin, to very large areas, or under occlusive dressings.

If systemic absorption occurs, hydrocortisone is extensively bound to plasma proteins, mainly to globulin and less so to albumin. Corticosteroids are metabolised mainly in the liver but also in the kidney, and are excreted in the urine.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

No further information available.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

White soft paraffin
Cetomacrogol emulsifying wax (containing cetostearyl alcohol and macrogol cetostearyl ether)
Liquid paraffin
Chlorocresol
Purified water

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

Three years.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store below 25°C. Do not freeze.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Hydrocortisone 1 % w/w Cream is packaged in internally lacquered aluminium tubes with polyethylene closures containing 15g of cream.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal of a used medicinal product or waste materials derived from such medicinal product and other handling of the product

No special requirements.

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Ovelle Limited
Industrial Estate
Coe's Road
Dundalk
Co. Louth

8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER

PA0206/030/001

9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 20 March 1998

Date of last renewal: 20 March 2008

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

August 2017