

BETACREAM[®]

Composition:

Betamethasone valerate	0.1% w/w
Chlorocresol (as Preservative)	0.1% w/w

Betamethasone is a synthetic corticosteroid that is used topically (on the skin). Betamethasone mimics the action of cortisol (hydrocortisone), the naturally-occurring steroid produced in the body by the adrenal glands. Corticosteroids have potent anti-inflammatory actions and also suppress the immune response. Corticosteroids have many effects on the body, but they most often are used for their potent anti-inflammatory effects, particularly in those conditions in which the immune system plays an important role. The FDA approved betamethasone in July 1983.

PREPARATION: Cream: 0.1%

Mechanism of Action:

Betamethasone is a glucocorticoid receptor agonist (GRA). This leads to changes in genetic expression once this complex binds to the GRA. The anti-inflammatory actions of corticosteroids are thought to involve lipocortins, phospholipase A2 inhibitory proteins which, through inhibition arachidonic acid, control the biosynthesis of prostaglandins and leukotrienes. The immune system is suppressed by corticosteroids due to a decrease in the function of the lymphatic system, a reduction in immunoglobulin and complement concentrations, the precipitation of lymphocytopenia, and interference with antigen-antibody binding. Betamethasone binds to plasma transcortin, and it becomes active when it is not bound to transcortin.

Indications:

Betamethasone is used to treat the itching, redness, dryness, crusting, scaling, inflammation, and discomfort of various skin conditions associated with a wide variety of skin conditions in patients 13 years of age or older. Examples include allergic dermatitis, atopic dermatitis, contact dermatitis, and plaque psoriasis.

Directions for use:

It is usually applied one to four times a day. Follow the directions on your prescription label carefully, and ask your doctor or pharmacist to explain any part you do not understand. Use **BETACREAM** exactly as directed. Do not use more or less of it or use it more often than prescribed by your doctor. Do not apply it to other areas of your body or wrap or bandage the treated area unless directed to do so by your doctor.

Wash or soak the affected area thoroughly before applying the medicine, unless it irritates your skin. Then apply the ointment or cream sparingly in a thin film and rub it in gently.

Special precautions:

Before using betamethasone,

- Tell your doctor and pharmacist if you are allergic to betamethasone or any other drugs.
- Tell your doctor and pharmacist what prescription and nonprescription medications you are taking, especially cancer chemotherapy agents, other topical medications, and vitamins.
- Tell your doctor if you have an infection or have ever had diabetes, glaucoma, cataracts, a circulation disorder, or an immune disorder.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding. If you become pregnant while using betamethasone, call your doctor immediately.

Apply the missed dose as soon as you remember it. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and continue your regular dosing schedule. Do not apply a double dose to make up for a missed one.

Side effects:

Betamethasone may cause side effects. Tell your doctor if any of these symptoms are severe or do not go away:

- drying or cracking of the skin
- acne
- itching
- burning
- change in skin color

If you experience any of the following symptoms, call your doctor immediately:

- severe skin rash
- difficulty breathing or swallowing
- wheezing
- skin infection (redness, swelling, or oozing pus)

STORAGE:

Keep this medication in the container it came in, tightly closed, and out of reach of children. Keep out of reach of children. Store it in cool & dark place. DO NOT FREEZE.

Presentation

10 gm Tube

For further information, please contact:

Market Planning Department

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