

INFORMATION LEAFLETS FOR PARENTS / CARERS OF A CHILD

POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE USE IN ECZEMA TREATMENT



What is potassium permanganate?

Potassium permanganate, when diluted, is a mild antiseptic that can be used to clean and dry out oozing eczematous skin and ulcerated conditions. It is generally used for short term treatment.

It is for external use only, never swallow or take internally.

How to prepare potassium permanganate solution using Permitabs®?

Potassium permanganate comes in a 400mg tablet form, Permitabs®. Gloves should be worn when handling potassium permanganate to avoid staining or irritation of the skin. A clean, heat resistant container lined with a clean white bin liner bag should be used to prepare the solution. One Permitab® tablet (400mg) should be dissolved in 4 litres of warm tap water. (This produces a concentration of 1:10,000). Make sure that the tablet is fully dissolved, it should be a magenta/purple colour. The solution should be prepared freshly just before use, otherwise it will start to oxidise and go brown.

Caution

- **Potassium permanganate is for external use only, never swallow or take internally. Eating and drinking should be avoided at the same time as using the product. If accidentally swallowed, seek medical attention immediately.**
- **If the solution gets in the eyes, wash immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice.**
- Tablets should never be split or cut.
- Tablets should be properly dissolved in water before use.
- Tablets should be safely stored out of children's reach.
- Potassium permanganate can stain plastic baths or sinks brown. It can also stain bed linen and clothing.

How to use potassium permanganate solution?

Prepare the potassium permanganate solution using the above method. If treating hands and feet, apply vaseline to the nails to prevent staining. For large eczematous lesions, immerse the area to be treated in the solution, soak for 10-15 minutes then pat dry. For small oozing lesions, soak gauze swabs or cotton cloths with the solution, gently dab the lesion with the damp swabs for 10-15 minutes then pat dry. Discard the solution and clean the container thoroughly after use.

How the treated area should be cared for?

After the affected areas have been soaked and dried, any prescribed creams, ointments and/or dressings can be applied as per your prescriber's instructions. Repeat as recommended by your prescriber.



Possible side effects of potassium permanganate soaks:

- Can cause irritation if the dilution is not adequate.
- Contact with eyes and mucous membranes (inside of mouth, nose, ear, genitals and anus) may cause irritation and should be avoided.
- Can cause dryness.
- Can cause burns.

If your child patient experiences any stinging or pain, discontinue treatment and contact the Dermatology department on (01) 409 6100

Further Information

Developed by The Dermatology Department

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