

INFORMATION LEAFLETS FOR PARENTS / CARERS OF A CHILD

POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE

Potassium Permanganate 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 comes in 2 forms and the nurse /pharmacist will advise what method to use:

1. Potassium Permanganate comes in a 400mg tablet form, Permitabs®. One tablet dissolved in 4 litres of warm water, makes a concentration of 1: 10,000. Make sure the tablet is fully dissolved. Use heat resistant bowl and gloves when preparing. Read product information in conjunction with this information sheet.
2. It can come in a liquid solution of 1:1000 and must be further diluted using 9mls of water for every ml of potassium permanganate to make up a concentration of 1: 10,000. This solution is usually for patients in hospital.

The ideal colour is a pale pink.

For small oozing lesions:

- Place the solution in a bowl of water.
- Add water to make up a light pink solution
- Using gauze soaks or cotton cloths, gently dab the lesion for 10-15mins.

For large eczematous lesions:

- Fill the bath with water
- Add the solution of potassium permanganate.
- To avoid the skin drying up too much add water to give a light pink colour.
- Soak for 10-15 minutes

It is usually prescribed once a day, for a maximum of 2 weeks.

Potassium permanganate can stain plastic baths or sinks, brown. It can also stain bed linen.

To prevent staining of nails, petroleum jelly Vaseline® can be applied to protect nails

Caution:

1. If patient complains of any stinging or pain, discontinue and contact the dermatology department. Phone 4096100
2. Tablets should never be split or cut.
3. Tablets should be properly dissolved in water before use.
4. Tablets should be safely stored out of children's reach.
5. If accidentally swallowed seek medical attention immediately.
6. If solution gets in eyes wash immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice

Developed by The Dermatology Department

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