

DIPROSONE®

Betamethasone dipropionate

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Diprosone.

It does not contain all the available information.

It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you using Diprosone against the benefits it is expected to have for you.

If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with your medicine.

You may need to read it again.

What Diprosone is used for

The name of your medicine is Diprosone. It contains the active ingredient called betamethasone dipropionate.

It is a type of cortisone and belongs to the group of medicines called corticosteroids. Diprosone is classified as a high potency topical corticosteroid.

There are three forms of Diprosone: cream, ointment and lotion.

Diprosone is used on the skin to relieve the redness, swelling, itching and discomfort of many skin problems such as:

- psoriasis (a stubborn skin disorder with raised, rough, reddened areas covered with dry, fine silvery scales)
- eczema (an often itchy skin condition with redness, swelling, oozing of fluid, crusting which may lead to scaling)
- other types of dermatitis

Diprosone Lotion is also used on the scalp and hairy parts of the body.

Your doctor may have prescribed Diprosone for another reason.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why Diprosone has been prescribed for you.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

Before you use Diprosone

When you must not use it

Do not use Diprosone if you have had an allergic reaction, such as wheezing, rash or hives, to Diprosone, any other corticosteroid, or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Do not use Diprosone if you have:

- a viral skin infection, such as cold sores, shingles or chicken pox
- a fungal skin infection, such as thrush, tinea or ringworm
- tuberculosis of the skin
- acne rosacea
- inflammation around the mouth
- skin conditions with ulcers unless your doctor tells you.

Ask your doctor to be sure you do not have any of these conditions.

Do not use Diprosone just before having a bath, shower or going swimming.

If you do, you may reduce the effectiveness of Diprosone.

Do not use Diprosone after the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack has passed.

If you use Diprosone after the expiry date has passed, it may not work as well.

Do not use Diprosone if the packaging shows signs of tampering.

Before you start to use it

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have allergies to:

- any other medicines
- any other substances, such as foods, dyes or preservatives.

Tell your doctor if:

- **you are pregnant or breast feeding.** Your doctor will tell you if you can use Diprosone during pregnancy or while you are breast feeding.
- **you have any other medical conditions, especially if you have an infection.**

Using other medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are using other creams, ointments or lotions or taking any other medicines. This includes any that you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

How to use DIPROSONE

How to use it

Apply a thin film of Diprosone Cream or Ointment or a few drops of Diprosone Lotion to the affected skin or scalp twice daily. Massage gently until it disappears. For some patients, once daily application may be enough for maintenance therapy.

It is important to use Diprosone exactly as your doctor has told you. If you use it less often than you should, it may not work as well and your skin problem may not improve.

Using it more often than you should may not improve your skin problem any faster and may cause or increase side effects.

How long to use it

Do not use Diprosone for more than four weeks at a time unless your doctor tells you.

If you forget to use it

If you forget to use Diprosone, use it as soon as you remember and then go back to your normal time for applying Diprosone. Do not try to make up for the amount you missed by using more than you would normally.

If you swallow it

Telephone your doctor or Poisons Information Centre (Australia - Ph: 13 11 26; New Zealand - Ph: 0800 POISON or 0800 764766) or go to the accident and emergency centre at your nearest hospital immediately if you think that you or anyone may have swallowed Diprosone.

Keep the telephone numbers of these places handy.

While you are using Diprosone

Things you must do

Tell all doctors and pharmacists who are treating you that you are using Diprosone.

Tell your doctor if you feel that Diprosone is not helping your condition or if your skin condition worsens or seems infected.

Tell your doctor if, for any reason, you have not used Diprosone exactly as prescribed.

Otherwise, your doctor may think that it was not effective and change your treatment unnecessarily.

If you become pregnant while using Diprosone, tell your doctor.

Things you must not do

Do not use Diprosone under dressings or on large areas of skin unless your doctor tells you.

Do not use plastic pants or tight fitting nappies if Diprosone is to be used on the nappy area of young children.

Do not use Diprosone in or near the eyes.

Do not give Diprosone to anyone else even if their symptoms seem similar to yours.

Do not use Diprosone to treat other conditions unless your doctor tells you.

Your doctor has prescribed Diprosone specially for you and your condition. If you use it for another condition, it may not work or make the condition worse.

Things to be careful of

Do not use large amounts for a long time.

If you use large amounts for a long time, the chance of absorption through the skin and the chance of side effects increases.

Only use Diprosone on skin areas that rub together such as under the arm or in the groin area if your doctor tells you.

Only use Diprosone on the face if your doctor tells you. If improvement does not occur within one week, tell your doctor.

Children and adolescents should be followed closely by the doctor, since this medicine is absorbed through the skin and can affect growth or cause other unwanted effects.

Side Effects

Tell your doctor if you do not feel well while you are using Diprosone.

Diprosone helps most people with skin problems but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people.

Diprosone is generally well tolerated. However, unwanted effects that have been reported by some people using Diprosone include:

- burning
- itching
- irritation
- infection or dryness of skin
- irritation or redness of the face
- increased hair growth
- acne
- change in skin colour
- thinning of skin with easy bruising
- stretch marks
- infection of the hair roots

- rash around mouth area
- contact dermatitis
- heat rash
- visual disturbances or blurred vision

Mild temporary stinging may be expected when Diprosone Lotion is applied.

Diprosone may cause other side effects.

Side effects that may happen with oral or injectables corticosteroids may also occur with corticosteroids used on the skin, especially in infants and children.

If you have any other side effects, check with your doctor.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

After using Diprosone

Storage

Keep Diprosone in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.

Diprosone Lotion should be protected from light.

Do not store Diprosone or any other medicines in the bathroom or near the sink. Do not leave it in the car or on window sills.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep Diprosone where children cannot reach it. Keep the medicine away from pets.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop using Diprosone or it has passed its expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any that is left over.

Product Description

What it looks like

Diprosone Cream is a white to off-white cream. It is packed in 15 g and 50 g tubes.

Diprosone Ointment is a white to off-white ointment. It is packed in 15 g and 50 g tubes.

Diprosone Lotion is a colourless to light yellow lotion. It is packed in 30 mL bottles.

Ingredients

Diprosone Cream contains:

- betamethasone as dipropionate 0.5 mg/g
- chlorocresol (preservative)
- soft white paraffin
- cetostearyl alcohol
- liquid paraffin
- cetomacrogol 1000
- sodium phosphate - monobasic dihydrate
- phosphoric acid
- purified water

Diprosone Ointment contains:

- betamethasone as dipropionate 0.5 mg/g
- liquid paraffin
- soft white paraffin

Diprosone Lotion contains:

- betamethasone as dipropionate 0.5 mg/g
- isopropyl alcohol
- carbomer
- sodium hydroxide

- purified water

Supplier

In Australia:

Merck Sharp & Dohme (Australia) Pty Limited
Level 1, Building A, 26 Talavera Road,
Macquarie Park, NSW 2113
AUSTRALIA

Presentations:

Cream - AUST R 18818
Ointment - AUST R 144098
Lotion - AUST R 18829

In New Zealand:

Merck Sharp & Dohme (New Zealand) Limited
PO Box 99851
Newmarket
Auckland
NEW ZEALAND

Presentations:

Cream
Ointment

Date of Preparation

15 November 2017

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