

The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Department of Dermatology

Patient Group Direction (PGD) for the administration of Dithranol in full strength Lassars Paste RVI by nursing staff

1. Clinical Condition

Clinical Condition	Treatment of Psoriasis
Maturity of patient	Adult and Paediatric (all ages)
Criteria for inclusion	All psoriatic patients
Criteria for exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hypersensitivity to any ingredients of the paste• Anyone known to burn easily with Dithranol or the sun• Acute Pustular Psoriasis• Dithranol in Lassars paste RVI formula must not be applied to eyes or genitals or under breasts
Action if excluded	Patient should be referred back to referring doctor
Action if patient declines treatment	Document patients refusal in the patients medical notes and refer patient back to referring doctor
Circumstances when further advice should be sought	If there are any adverse reactions to the treatment seek advice from referring doctor

2. Characteristics of staff

Class of health care professional to whom PGD applies	Named Nurse
Qualifications required	Qualified as a first level registered nurse working within Dermatology
Additional requirements	The qualified nurse must have worked within the Dermatology Department for a minimum of one year
Continuing training requirements	Attend courses relating to dermatology and a commitment to continuing updating of skills in discipline area. Adhere to NMC recommendations on professional development, scope of practice and conduct

3. Description of Treatment

Name of medicine	Dithranol in full strength Lassars paste
Class of Medicine	Antipsoriatic Agent
Legal Status	Dithranol in full strength Lassars Paste is legally classed as a pharmacy medicine (P) if the strength of Dithranol is less than or equal to 1%. If the strength of the Dithranol in full strength Lassars paste is greater then 1% the paste is legally classed as a Prescription only medicine (POM)
Medicine licensed for clinical condition stated in PGD	No. It is an unlicensed product however it is acknowledged as an effective treatment of the condition included in this PGD
Route of Administration	Dithranol in full strength Lassars paste is applied topically to the lesions avoiding normal skin, eyes, genital area and under breasts
Pharmaceutical form and strength	Dithranol in full strength Lassars Paste contains various strengths of Dithranol i.e. 0.025%, 0.05%, 0.1%, 0.2%, 0.4%, 0.6%, 0.8%, 1%, 2%, 4%, 6%, 8%. The commencing strength of Dithranol is determined on assessment by the named nurse depending on the patient's sensitivity and thickness of the psoriatic lesions. Different strengths can be used at the same time on different body sites
Dose	Applied using a finger cot or glove to the lesions covering the area of lesion only (Patient shown the technique by the nurse). Lesions on the face should be treat with a strength of Dithranol of 0.025% or 0.05%. It must never be applied near the eyes

3. Treatment Continued

Frequency	<p>Dithranol in full strength Lassars paste RVI is applied daily to the lesions, talcum powder is then applied to these areas which sets the paste in place and prevents it from spreading onto the surrounding normal skin. Stockinette is then rolled into place covering the limbs and body thereby covering the affected areas. The limb dressings are secured to the body dressing by means of ties and tape.</p> <p>Dithranol in full strength Lassars paste is removed daily prior to bathing by using olive oil soaked clothes. The patient then bathes in a bath containing a mixture of hydromol ®, and water.(see separate PDGs for individual preparations) The treatment is reapplied after assessment by the named nurse</p> <p>Treatment to the face is removed using olive oil soaked tissue (see additional warning).</p>
Maximum total dose to be supplied	One 100g jar
Maximum period over which medicine should be administered	<p>The maximum duration of treatment course is approximately 6 weeks as an outpatient and 3 weeks as an in patient. If the patient requires a longer treatment the referring doctor must be informed</p> <p>The patient is assessed daily by the named nurse</p>
Common adverse effects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redness of surrounding skin. • Burning sensation • Local Irritation • Staining of skin and fabric <p>Intolerance of Dithranol</p>
Drug Interaction	None Known
Action to be taken if patient experiences any adverse effects	<p>If a burning sensation occurs the paste is removed using olive oil and the area assessed.</p> <p>The patient then bathes in an emollient bath and Betamethasone cream 0.1% applied to the sore areas excluding the face for which Hydrocortisone 1% is used</p> <p>The patient is referred back to the referring doctor</p> <p>The adverse effect and treatment is recorded in patient's nursing kardex.</p>

3. Treatment Continued

Additional warning	Lesions on the face should be treated with a strength of Dithranol of 0.025% or 0.05% It must never be applied near the eyes It is removed from the face using olive oil and tissues prior to sleeping to prevent any burning due to smudging into the eyes. Dithranol in full strength Lassars paste can stain skin and fabrics
Information on follow up treatment	Dithranol in full strength Lassars paste is not given to the patient as a discharge medicine. It is only applied to the lesions in the Dermatology Department
Prescription to be supplied to patient	Not applicable as hospital treatment only.

4. Patient Information

Written/verbal advice for patients	<p>During demonstration and treatment the patient is encouraged to participate and is shown how</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To apply the paste to the lesions and roll on the dressings • Remove the paste with olive oil if a burning sensation occurs or in preparation for another treatment • Bathe in an Hydromol ® solution bath <p>The patient is given information as to their condition and informed of the side effects especially burning and staining</p> <p>Given contact telephone numbers of the Psoriatic Lead Nurse and the Psoriasis Association</p> <p>If facial Dithranol has been applied the patient is told to remove the paste with olive oil and tissues before going to sleep at night</p> <p>The patient is told that if burning of the eyes occurs the patient must inform the department/ward immediately</p>
Records to be completed	<p>Record all treatment details in the patient's nursing kardex and retain the copies of all medicines given. A detailed discharge summary should be written in the patient's notes and a discharge sheet recording attendance, UVB and treatment given completed. The referring doctor should be given the notes and any follow up appointment made</p>
Audit	Practice to be reviewed each year

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