

A-Detail™ Fact Sheet (Canada)

50µg/gm Calcipotriol and 0.5mg/gm Betamethasone Dipropionate (Dovobet™)

Overview

Dovobet™ is a topical ointment approved for use in Canada to treat plaque psoriasis. Marketed by LEO Pharma, Dovobet™ has become the topical therapy of choice for many patients with plaque type psoriasis that does not involve the face or skin folds.

Clinical Experience

More than six international studies involving more than 6,000 patients have shown reductions in the Psoriasis Area and Severity Index (PASI) of approximately 40% after 1 week of treatment and 70% after 4 weeks. In practice, ongoing use of Dovobet™, such as on weekends only is common. Dovonex® (50µg calcipotriol) is often prescribed after 4 weeks of Dovobet™ therapy for ongoing maintenance.

Patient Profiles

Suitable candidates include patients with chronic plaque psoriasis that covers less than 30% of their body surface. In some cases, a patient could use it on a greater body surface area (BSA) if he/she wanted to as long as the use/week is 100gm/week or less. This area could be as large as 28 palm-sized lesions at approximately 0.5gm/100cm² application rate.

Unsuitable candidates include patients:

- with erythrodermic, pustular, exfoliative or guttate psoriasis
- with other inflammatory skin diseases
- with plaque psoriasis that covers more than 30% of their body surface
- who are children
- who are pregnant.

Dosing

Dovobet™ should be applied to the affected area once daily for 4 weeks. Several studies have shown that there are no statistically significant differences between applying the ointment daily or twice daily. No more than 100gm should be used per week. Patients should wash their hands carefully after applying Dovobet™. For ongoing maintenance after the initial 4-week treatment, Dovobet™ can be used on weekends only, applying other topicals (preferably not corticosteroids) on the weekdays..

Efficacy

Studies have shown that Dovobet™ has superior efficacy and a faster onset of action when compared to either active component (calcipotriol or betamethasone dipropionate) on its own in the

same base. Dovobet™ is a stable combination of calcipotriol and a potent corticosteroid. Used together, the two compounds show a high success rate with fewer side-effects than if used on their own. Dovobet™ has the potency and safety profile of a class III steroid.

Side Effects, Risks, Compliance & Monitoring

Side Effects

Because Dovobet™ is a combination drug the frequency of side effects reported is less than would be expected if using each compound on its own. For example, the anti-inflammatory action of the corticosteroid minimizes the irritation often reported when using calcipotriol alone. Approximately 5%-10% of patients report itching. In a study of more than 1,000 patients, 9.9% reported lesional or perilesional adverse reactions. No changes have been reported in serum calcium.

Risks

The recommended treatment period is 4 weeks, however, some patients will require longer treatment time, and this should be based on physicians' assessment of the benefit/risks of continuing the treatment regimen, as prolonged use of steroids can interfere with collagen production and vascular stability producing skin atrophy and purpura. Dovobet™ should not be used concurrently with other corticosteroid creams or ointments.

Compliance

Compliance is less of a problem than with most products due to the rapid onset of action. Significant improvement is usually seen within the first week. Compliance is also aided by the convenience of the once daily dosing regimen. However, because it has an ointment base, some patients find it cosmetically difficult. It is therefore normally applied at bedtime.

Monitoring

Monitor for clinical improvement in the skin as well as for side-effects such as skin atrophy, purpura, perioral dermatitis, rosacea and other side-effects of topical steroids.

A-Details™ "An Online Academic Drug Presentation Written By Drs. for Drs."

The content is third party, academic-based and includes clinical evidence and practical experience. View the complete A-Detail™ for Dovobet™ and other drugs at www.SkinTherapyLetter.ca or www.PsoriasisGuide.ca
Just click on Physician's View and A-Details.