

A-Detail™ Fact Sheet (Canada)

Mupirocin 2% Ointment and Cream (Bactroban®)

Overview

Mupirocin 2% ointment and cream (marketed in Canada by GlaxoSmithKline under the name Bactroban®) is a topical antibacterial drug for treating superficial skin infections caused by susceptible organisms, including *S. aureus*, *S. epidermidis*, *S. pyogenes*, β -hemolytic streptococci, and methicillin resistant strains of staphylococci.

Clinical Experience

Mupirocin 2% is a safe, effective and well-tolerated topical antibiotic that acts by inhibiting protein synthesis. It is very effective for localized impetigo and skin lesions secondarily infected with staph or strep, and has shown fewer side effects than systemic antibiotics.

Patient Profiles

Suitable candidates include patients with skin or skin structure infections caused by *S. aureus*, *S. epidermidis*, *S. pyogenes*, and β -hemolytic streptococci. Unsuitable candidates are those with infections caused by *Enterobacteriaceae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *S. faecalis*, *S. faecium*, *S. bovis* or fungi.

Dosing

A small amount of the topical cream or ointment should be applied to the affected area 3 times daily for up to 10 days. Gauze dressing may also be applied.

Efficacy

Studies have shown that mupirocin 2% is effective for treating impetigo and superficial skin infections, as well as reducing nasal *S. aureus*.

Side Effects, Risks, Compliance and Monitoring

Side Effects

When applied topically, mupirocin 2% is well tolerated. Side effects reported for the cream include headache, upper respiratory tract infection, nausea, pain, diarrhea and pharyngitis. Ointment side effects include burning, stinging or pain, itching, erythema, and dryness.

Risks

Mupirocin 2% should not be applied to the eyes or mucous membranes, on burn patients (especially those with extensive burns), over large areas of skin or in patients who have a fever. The ointment should also not be applied to open wounds or damaged skin in patients with moderate to severe renal impairment. Prolonged use of mupirocin 2% may result in overgrowth of nonsusceptible organisms, including fungi.

Compliance

Ease of application and reduced side effects (compared to oral antibiotics) mean that patients are likely to comply with mupirocin 2% therapy.

Monitoring

Patients should be advised to contact their physician if skin irritation, severe itching or rash occur, or if improvement is not evident within 3-5 days.

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 Bactroban® and other drugs at www.SkinCareGuide.ca or www.AcneGuide.ca.

Just click on Physician's View and A-Details.