

## Package leaflet: Information for the patient

### Betamethasone valerate/Neomycin sulfate 1 mg/5 mg/g Ointment

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start using this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

#### **What is in this leaflet:**

1. What Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you use Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment
3. How to use Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment
6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### **1. What Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment is and what it is used for**

Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment contains two different medicines called betamethasone valerate and neomycin sulfate.

- Betamethasone valerate belongs to a group of medicines called steroids. It helps to reduce swelling and irritation.
- Neomycin sulfate is a type of anti-infective medicine. It fights bacterial infections of the skin.

This medicine is used to help reduce the redness and itchiness of certain skin problems. These skin problems include eczema, psoriasis, dermatitis or insect bites, where an infection may be a problem.

#### **2. What you need to know before you use Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment**

##### **Do not use Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment:**

- if you are allergic to betamethasone valerate, neomycin sulfate or any of the other ingredients (listed in section 6)
- on a child under 2 years old
- to treat any of the following skin problems, it could make them worse:
  - o acne
  - o severe flushing of skin on and around your nose (rosacea)
  - o spotty red rash around your mouth (perioral dermatitis)
  - o itchy skin which is not inflamed
  - o itching around your back passage or private parts - unless your doctor has told you to do so
  - o viral infections, such as cold sores, herpes or chicken pox
  - o fungal infections, such as ringworm, athlete's foot or thrush
  - o skin blisters or sores that are caused by an infection
  - o outer ear infections.

If any of the above apply to you, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

### **Warnings and precautions**

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before using Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment if

- you have previously had an allergic reaction with another steroid
- you are applying the ointment under an airtight dressing, including a child's nappy. These dressings make it easier for the active ingredient to pass through the skin. It is possible to accidentally end up using too much ointment
- you have psoriasis, your doctor will want to see you more often.
- using for a chronic leg ulcer as you may be at increased risk of local allergic reaction or infection.
- you are applying to a large surface area
- you are applying the ointment on broken skin or within the skin folds.
- you are applying near eyes or on eyelids, as cataracts or glaucoma may result if the ointment repeatedly enters the eye.
- you have an infection of the skin as this will need to be treated
- you are applying to thin skin such as the face or on children as their skin is thinner than adults and as a result may absorb larger amounts.
- you have kidney problems; your doctor may decide to change the amount or number of times you apply the ointment.

If there is a worsening of your condition during use consult your prescriber – you may be experiencing an allergic reaction, have an infection or your condition requires a different treatment.

If you experience a recurrence of your condition shortly after stopping treatment, within 2 weeks, do not restart using the ointment without consulting your prescriber unless your prescriber has previously advised you to so. If your condition has resolved and on recurrence the redness extends beyond the initial treatment area and you experience a burning sensation, please seek medical advice before restarting treatment.

Do not smoke or go near naked flames - risk of severe burns. Fabric (clothing, bedding, dressings etc) that has been in contact with this product burns more easily and is a serious fire hazard. Washing clothing and bedding may reduce product build-up but not totally remove it.

Dressing or bandages should not be used on children or on the face where the ointment is applied.

Use on children or on the face should be limited to 5 days.

Contact your doctor if you experience blurred vision or other visual disturbances.

If you are not sure if any of the above apply to you, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before using this medicine.

### **Other medicines and Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines, especially if you are taking ritonavir and itraconazole medications.

If Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment is absorbed into the body in large amounts, the effects of medicines used to relax muscles during surgery can last longer or even be increased. If you are having surgery you should tell the doctor that you have used Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment.

### **Pregnancy and breast-feeding**

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

### **Driving and using machines**

Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment is unlikely to affect your ability to operate machinery or to drive.

## **3. How to use Betamethasone/ Neomycin Ointment**

Always use this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

### **Using this medicine**

- You usually apply the ointment 2 or 3 times a day. This may be reduced as your skin begins to get better.
- **If your skin problem does not improve after 7 days talk to your doctor.**
- This ointment is for use on your skin only.
- Do not use on large areas of the body for a long time (such as every day for many weeks or months) - unless your doctor tells you to.
- The germs that cause infections like warm and moist conditions under dressings so always clean the skin before a fresh dressing is put on.
- If you are applying the ointment on someone else make sure you wash your hands after use or wear disposable plastic gloves.
- Do not mix with any other creams or ointments.

### **Guidance on how to apply the ointment**

1. Wash your hands.
2. Gently rub the correct amount of ointment into the skin until it has all disappeared. You can measure how much ointment to use with your fingertip. This picture shows one fingertip unit.
3. Unless you are meant to apply the ointment to your hands as a part of the treatment, wash them again after using the ointment.

### **For an adult**

You should find that:

- two fingertips of ointment will cover both hands or one foot
- three fingertips of ointment will cover one arm
- six fingertips of ointment will cover one leg
- fourteen fingertips of ointment will cover the front and back of the body.

Do not worry if you find you need a little more or a little less than this. It is only a rough guide.

### **For a child**

- Do not use it on children under 2 years of age.
- The smaller the child the less you will need to use.
- A child of 4 years needs about a third of the adult amount.
- A course of treatment for a child should not normally last more than 5 days, unless your doctor has told you to use it for longer.

### **If you have psoriasis**

If you have thick patches of psoriasis on your elbows or knees, your doctor may suggest applying the ointment under an airtight dressing. It will only be at night to help the ointment to start working. After a short period of time you will then apply the ointment as normal.

**If you apply Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment to your face**

You should only apply the ointment to your face if your doctor tells you to. The ointment should not be used for too long as the skin on your face thins easily. **Do not let the ointment get into your eyes.** If it does, wash it out with plenty of water.

**If you use more Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment than you should**

If, by mistake on a few occasions you use more than you should, do not worry. If you apply a lot or if a lot is accidentally swallowed, it could make you ill. Talk to your doctor or go to your hospital as soon as possible.

**If you forget to use Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment**

If you forget to use the ointment, use it as soon as you remember, but if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and continue as usual.

Do not use a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

**If you stop using Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment**

If you use this medicine regularly make sure you talk to your doctor before you stop using it.

If you have any further questions on the use of this product, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

**4. Possible side effects**

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

**STOP using this medicine and tell your doctor as soon as possible if:**

- you find that your skin problem gets worse, you develop a generalised rash or your skin becomes swollen during treatment. You may be allergic to the ointment, have an infection or need other treatment.
- you have psoriasis and get raised bumps with pus under the skin. This can happen very rarely during or after treatment and is known as pustular psoriasis.

**Other side effects you may notice when using Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment include:****Common** (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

- a feeling of burning, pain, irritation or itching where the ointment is applied.

**Very rare** (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people)

- an increased risk of infection
- an allergic skin reaction where the cream is applied
- rash, itchy bumpy skin or redness of the skin
- thinning and dryness of your skin and it may also damage or wrinkle more easily
- stretch marks may develop
- blood vessels under the surface of your skin may become more noticeable
- an increase or reduction in hair growth or hair loss and changes in skin colour
- weight gain, rounding of the face
- delayed weight gain or slowing of growth in children
- bones can become thin, weak and break easily
- cloudy lens in the eye (cataract) or increased pressure in eye (glaucoma)
- a decrease in the level of the hormone cortisol in your blood
- increased blood sugar levels or sugar in the urine
- high blood pressure

**Not Known** (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data)

- blurred vision
- Steroid withdrawal reaction: If used over prolonged periods a withdrawal reaction, which might appear to be different from the previous condition, may occur in some patients during treatment or within days to weeks after stopping treatment, with some or all of the following features: redness of the skin which can extend beyond the initial area treated, a burning or stinging sensation, intense itching, peeling of the skin, oozing open sores

If you absorb or swallow Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment in large quantities, it can affect your hearing, nerves and kidneys. This is unlikely when you use the ointment normally.

### **Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at: [www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard) or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

## **5. How to store Betamethasone/ Neomycin Ointment**

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

- Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the tube end or carton after Exp. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not store above 30°C.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

## **6. Contents of the pack and other information**

### **What Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment contains**

- The active substances are betamethasone valerate and neomycin sulfate. Each 1 g contains 1 mg of betamethasone (0.1% w/w) as valerate and 5 mg of neomycin sulfate (0.5% w/w).
- The other ingredients are: liquid paraffin and white soft paraffin.

### **What Betamethasone/Neomycin Ointment looks like and contents of the pack**

Within each carton is a tube with a plastic screw cap, which contains 15 g, 30 g or 100 g of ointment. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

### **Marketing Authorisation Holder**

Essential Generics, 8a Crabtree Road, Egham, Surrey TW20 8RN, United Kingdom.

### **Manufacturer**

Purna Pharmaceuticals NV, Rijksweg 17, 2870 Puurs, Belgium.

**This leaflet was last revised in August 2024.**