

# Clotrimazole & Betamethasone

## **Why is this medication prescribed?**

This combination medication is used to treat a variety of inflamed fungal skin infections such as ringworm, athlete's foot, and jock itch. This product contains 2 medications. Clotrimazole is an azole antifungal that works by preventing the growth of fungus. Betamethasone is a strong corticosteroid that works by reducing the swelling, redness, and itching that occurs in the skin infection.

## **How should this medicine be used?**

Use this medication on the skin only. Clean and thoroughly dry the area to be treated. Apply a thin layer of the medication to the affected area and gently rub in, usually twice daily (in the morning and evening) or as directed by your doctor. Wash your hands after using unless you are using this medication to treat the hands. Do not wrap, cover, or bandage the area unless directed to do so by your doctor. Wear loose-fitting clothes after applying the medication to the groin area.

Ringworm or jock itch is usually treated for 2 weeks, and athlete's foot is usually treated for 4 weeks. Do not use more than 45 grams of the cream per week unless directed and closely monitored by your doctor.

Continue to use this medication until the full prescribed amount is finished, even if symptoms disappear after a few days. Stopping the medication too early may result in a return of the infection.

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## **What special precautions should I follow?**

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to clotrimazole or betamethasone; or to other azole antifungals (e.g., ketoconazole) or corticosteroids (e.g., triamcinolone); or if you have any other allergies.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: immune system problems, poor blood circulation.

Though very unlikely, it is possible this medication will be absorbed into your bloodstream. This may have undesirable effects that may require additional corticosteroid treatment. Children and those using this drug for an extended time over most of the skin may be at higher risk, especially if they also have serious medical problems such as severe infections, injuries, or surgeries. This precaution applies for up to 1 year after stopping use of this drug.

Tell your doctor immediately if any of the following side effects occur: vision problems, persistent headache, increased thirst/urination, unusual weakness, sudden weight loss, dizziness.

Caution is advised when using this drug in the elderly.

Caution is advised when using this drug in children. This medication may affect growth in children if used for long periods. Monitor your child's height and rate of growth from time to time.

During pregnancy, this medication should be used only when clearly needed.

It is not known whether this drug passes into breast milk when applied to the skin

**What should I do if I forget a dose?**

If you miss a dose, use it as soon as you remember. If it is near the time of the next dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to catch up.

**What side effects can this medication cause?**

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these signs of an allergic reaction: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Stop using this medication and call your doctor at once if you have any of these signs that you may be absorbing betamethasone topical through your skin or gums:

- swelling, redness, or any signs of new infection;
- severe burning or stinging of treated skin;
- weight gain, rounding of the face;
- increased thirst or hunger, urinating more than usual; or
- anxiety, depressed mood.

Less serious side effects may include:

- mild skin itching or irritation;
- dry skin;
- changes in skin color;
- increased acne; or
- scarring or thinning of the skin.

**What storage conditions are needed for this medicine?**

Store at room temperature at 25 degrees C away from light and moisture. Brief storage between 15-30 degrees C is permitted.

In case of emergency/overdose

This medication may be harmful if swallowed. If overdose or swallowing is suspected, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

**What other information should I know?**

Do not cover treated skin areas with a bandage or tight clothing, unless your doctor has told you to.

Do not use this medication on a child younger than 17 years old. Children are more likely to absorb the steroid through the skin. Never use betamethasone and clotrimazole to treat diaper rash.

It may take up to 1 or 2 weeks of using this medicine before your symptoms improve. For best results, keep using the medication as directed. Talk with your doctor if your groin symptoms do not improve after 1 week, or if your foot symptoms do not improve after 2 weeks of treatment.