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**55**  
 EDITION  
 2001

# PHYSICIANS' DESK REFERENCE®

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PHYSICIANS'

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DESK

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REFERENCE

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## Desowen—Cont.

nant woman or can affect reproduction capacity. D Cream, Ointment and Lotion should be given to a pregnant woman only if clearly needed.

**Nursing mothers:** Systemically administered corticosteroids appear in human milk and could suppress growth, interfere with endogenous corticosteroid production, or cause other untoward effects. It is not known whether topical administration of corticosteroids could result in sufficient systemic absorption to produce detectable quantities in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when Desowen® Cream, Ointment or Lotion is administered to a nursing woman.

**Pediatric use:** Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients have not been established. Because of a higher ratio of skin surface area to body mass, pediatric patients are at a greater risk than adults of HPA axis suppression when they are treated with topical corticosteroids. They are therefore also at greater risk of glucocorticosteroid insufficiency after withdrawal of treatment and of Cushing's syndrome while on treatment. Adverse effects including striae have been reported with inappropriate use of topical corticosteroids in infants and children.

HPA axis suppression, Cushing's syndrome, linear growth retardation, delayed weight gain and intracranial hypertension have been reported in children receiving topical corticosteroids. Manifestations of adrenal suppression in children include low plasma cortisol levels, and absence of response to ACTH stimulation. Manifestations of intracranial hypertension include bulging fontanelles, headaches, and bilateral papilledema.

## ADVERSE REACTIONS

In controlled clinical trials, the total incidence of adverse reactions associated with the use of desonide was approximately 8%. These were: stinging and burning approximately 3%, irritation, contact dermatitis, condition worsened, peeling of skin, itching, intense transient erythema, and dryness/scaliness, each less than 2%.

The following additional local adverse reactions have been reported infrequently with other topical corticosteroids, and they may occur more frequently with the use of occlusive dressings, especially with higher potency corticosteroids. These reactions are listed in an approximate decreasing order of occurrence: folliculitis, acneiform eruptions, hypopigmentation, perioral dermatitis, secondary infection, skin atrophy, striae, and miliaria.

## OVERDOSAGE

Topically applied Desowen® (desonide cream, ointment, and lotion) Cream, Ointment and Lotion can be absorbed in sufficient amounts to produce systemic effects (See PRECAUTIONS).

## DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Desowen® Cream, Ointment or Lotion should be applied to the affected areas as a thin film two or three times daily depending on the severity of the condition. SHAKE LOTION WELL BEFORE USING.

As with other corticosteroids, therapy should be discontinued when control is achieved. If no improvement is seen within 2 weeks, reassessment of diagnosis may be necessary.

Desowen® Cream, Ointment and Lotion should not be used with occlusive dressings.

## HOW SUPPLIED

Desowen® (desonide cream) Cream 0.05% is supplied in tubes containing:

15 g NDC 0299-5770-15

60 g NDC 0299-5770-60

Desowen® (desonide ointment) Ointment 0.05% is supplied in tubes containing:

15 g NDC 0299-5775-15

60 g NDC 0299-5775-60

Desowen® (desonide lotion) Lotion 0.05% is supplied in bottles containing:

2 fl oz NDC 0299-5765-02

4 fl oz NDC 0299-5765-04

**Storage Conditions:** Store between 2° and 30°C (36° and 86°F).

**CAUTION:** Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription.

225025-0395 Revised: March 1995

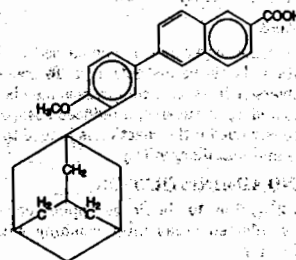
DIFFERIN®  
(adapalene gel)  
Gel, 0.1%

## DESCRIPTION

DIFFERIN® Gel, containing adapalene, is used for the topical treatment of acne vulgaris. Each gram of Differin® Gel contains adapalene 0.1% (1mg) in a vehicle consisting of propylene glycol, carbomer 940, poloxamer 182, edetate disodium, methylparaben, sodium hydroxide, and purified water. May contain hydrochloric acid to adjust pH.

The chemical name of adapalene is 6-[3-(1-adamantyl)-4-methoxyphenyl]-2-naphthoic acid. Adapalene is a white to off-white powder which is soluble in tetrahydrofuran, sparingly soluble in ethanol, and practically insoluble in water. The molecular formula is C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and molecular weight is

412.52. Adapalene is represented by the following structural formula:



## CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Adapalene is a chemically stable, retinoid-like compound. Biochemical and pharmacological profile studies have demonstrated that adapalene is a modulator of cellular differentiation, keratinization, and inflammatory processes all of which represent important features in the pathology of acne vulgaris.

Mechanistically, adapalene binds to specific retinoic acid nuclear receptors but does not bind to the cytosolic receptor protein. Although the exact mode of action of adapalene is unknown, it is suggested that topical adapalene may normalize the differentiation of follicular epithelial cells resulting in decreased microcomedone formation.

**Pharmacokinetics:** Absorption of adapalene through human skin is low. Only trace amounts (<0.25 ng/mL) of parent substance have been found in the plasma of acne patients following chronic topical application of adapalene in controlled clinical trials. Excretion appears to be primarily by the biliary route.

## INDICATIONS AND USAGE

DIFFERIN® Gel is indicated for the topical treatment of acne vulgaris.

## CONTRAINDICATIONS

DIFFERIN® Gel should not be administered to individuals who are hypersensitive to adapalene or any of the components in the vehicle gel.

## WARNINGS

Use of DIFFERIN® Gel should be discontinued if hypersensitivity to any of the ingredients is noted. Patients with sunburn should be advised not to use the product until fully recovered.

## PRECAUTIONS

**General:** If a reaction suggesting sensitivity or chemical irritation occurs, use of the medication should be discontinued. Exposure to sunlight, including sunlamps, should be minimized during the use of adapalene. Patients who normally experience high levels of sun exposure, and those with inherent sensitivity to sun, should be warned to exercise caution. Use of sunscreen products and protective clothing over treated areas is recommended when exposure cannot be avoided. Weather extremes, such as wind or cold, also may be irritating to patients under treatment with adapalene.

Avoid contact with the eyes, lips, angles of the nose, and mucous membranes. The product should not be applied to cuts, abrasions, eczematous skin, or sunburned skin.

Certain cutaneous signs and symptoms such as erythema, dryness, scaling, burning, or pruritus may be experienced during treatment. These are most likely to occur during the first two to four weeks and will usually lessen with continued use of the medication. Depending upon the severity of adverse events, patients should be instructed to reduce the frequency of application or discontinue use.

**Drug Interactions:** As DIFFERIN® Gel has the potential to produce local irritation in some patients, concomitant use of other potentially irritating topical products (medicated or abrasive soaps and cleansers, soaps and cosmetics that have a strong drying effect, and products with high concentrations of alcohol, astringents, spices, or lime) should be approached with caution. Particular caution should be exercised in using preparations containing sulfur, resorcinol, or salicylic acid in combination with DIFFERIN® Gel. If these preparations have been used, it is advisable not to start therapy with DIFFERIN® Gel until the effects of such preparations in the skin have subsided.

**Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility:** Carcinogenicity studies with adapalene have been conducted in mice at topical doses of 0.3, 0.9, and 2.6 mg/kg/day and in rats at oral doses of 0.15, 0.5, and 1.5 mg/kg/day, approximately 4-75 times the maximal daily human topical dose. In the oral study, positive linear trends were observed in the incidence of follicular cell adenomas and carcinomas in the thyroid glands of female rats, and in the incidence of benign and malignant pheochromocytomas in the adrenal medullas of male rats.

No photocarcinogenicity studies were conducted. Animal studies have shown an increased tumorigenic risk with the use of pharmacologically similar drugs (e.g., retinoids) when exposed to UV irradiation in the laboratory or to sunlight. Although the significance of these studies to human use is

not clear, patients should be advised exposure to either sunlight or artificial sources.

In a series of *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies, adapalene did not exhibit mutagenic or genotoxic activity. **Pregnancy:** Teratogenic effects. Pregnancy teratogenic effects were seen in rats at adapalene 0.15 to 5.0 mg/kg/day, up to 10 times the daily human topical dose. Cutaneous lesions conducted in rats and rabbits at doses of 0.15 to 5.0 mg/kg/day, up to 150 times the maximal dose exhibited no fetotoxicity. Increases in supernumerary ribs in rats treated with adapalene should be used during pregnancy. The potential benefit justifies the potential risk. **Nursing Mothers:** It is not known whether adapalene is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when DIFFERIN® Gel is administered to a nursing woman. **Pediatric Use:** Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients below the age of 12 have not been established.

## ADVERSE REACTIONS

Some adverse effects such as erythema, pruritus, and burning will occur in 10-15% of patients and approximately 20% of patients. The adverse experiences were reported in approximately 20% of patients: skin irritation, burning, sunburn, and acne flares. These experiences were reported during the first month of therapy and severity thereafter. All adverse experiences resolved with continued use of DIFFERIN® Gel during clinical trials with continued use of therapy.

## OVERDOSAGE

DIFFERIN® Gel is intended for cutaneous use. If applied excessively, no more than 10 mg will be obtained and marked redness may occur. The acute oral toxicity of adapalene in mice and rats is greater than 10 mL/kg. Overdosage of the drug may lead to the same side effects as those seen with excessive oral intake of Vitamin A.

## DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

DIFFERIN® Gel should be applied once daily after washing in the evening before use. The gel should be applied, avoiding ocular membranes.

During the early weeks of therapy, irritation of acne may occur. This is due to irritation on previously unclean lesions. Irritation should be considered a reason to discontinue therapy. Irritation should be noticed after eight to twelve days.

## HOW SUPPLIED

DIFFERIN® (adapalene gel) Gel, 0.1% is supplied in:

15 g laminate tube-NDC 0299-5770-15

60 g laminate tube-NDC 0299-5770-60

Storage: Store at controlled room temperature (20°-25°C).

CAUTION: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription.

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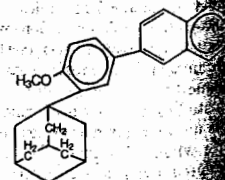
Revised: May 1996

DIFFERIN®  
(adapalene solution)  
Solution, 0.1%

## DESCRIPTION

DIFFERIN® Solution, containing adapalene, is used for the topical treatment of acne vulgaris. Each gram of Differin® Solution contains adapalene 0.1% (1mg) in a vehicle consisting of polyethylene glycol 400 and water (w/v).

The chemical name of adapalene is 6-[3-(1-adamantyl)-4-methoxyphenyl]-2-naphthoic acid. Adapalene is a white to off-white powder which is soluble in tetrahydrofuran, sparingly soluble in ethanol, and practically insoluble in water. The molecular formula is C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and molecular weight is 412.52. Adapalene is represented by the following structural formula:



## CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Adapalene is a chemically stable, retinoid-like compound. Biochemical and pharmacological profile studies have demonstrated that adapalene is a modulator of cellular differentiation, keratinization, and inflammatory processes all of which represent important features in the pathology of acne vulgaris. Mechanistically, adapalene binds to specific retinoic acid nuclear receptors but does not bind to the cytosolic receptor protein. Although the exact mode of action of adapalene is unknown, it is suggested that topical adapalene may normalize the differentiation of follicular epithelial cells resulting in decreased microcomedone formation.



but does not bind to the cytoskeleton. The exact mode of action of adapalene is suggested that topical adapalene causes differentiation of follicular epithelium, decreased microcomedone formation, and promotion of adapalene through humoral amounts (< 0.25 ng/mL) of adapalene found in the plasma of acne patients. Topical application of adapalene in patients with acne vulgaris appears to be primarily

**INDICATIONS**

Indicated for the topical treatment of acne vulgaris.

Adapalene should not be administered to individuals who are hypersensitive to adapalene or any of the ingredients of the solution.

Use should be discontinued if hypersensitivity or irritation to any of the ingredients is noted. Patients should be advised not to use the product until the irritation subsides.

Patients with a history of hypersensitivity to retinoids or other retinoid medication should be discontinued. Sunbathing, including sunlamps, should be avoided during treatment with adapalene. Patients who normally receive a large amount of sun exposure, and those who are taking photosensitizing drugs, should be warned to wear protective clothing and sunglasses when exposure occurs. Patients should be warned to avoid extremes, such as wind or cold, also during treatment with adapalene.

Patients with a history of hypersensitivity to adapalene or any of the ingredients should not be applied to the face, neck, or sunburned skin.

Patients with symptoms such as erythema, pruritus, or burning should be discontinued. The most likely to occur during the first few weeks of treatment and will usually lessen with continued use. Depending upon the severity of the reaction, patients should be instructed to reduce the amount of use or discontinue use.

DIFFERIN® Solution has the potential for irritation in some patients, concomitant use of irritating topical products (medicated cleansers, soaps and cosmetics) may increase the irritant effect, and products with high concentrations of astringents, spices, or lime should be avoided. Particular caution should be exercised with cleansers containing sulfur, resorcinol, or salicylic acid when used with DIFFERIN® Solution. If irritation has been used, it is advisable not to use DIFFERIN® Solution until the effects of the irritation have subsided.

**Carcinogenesis, Impairment of Fertility:** Carcinogenicity studies with adapalene have been conducted in mice and rats at doses of 0.03, 0.9, and 2.6 mg/kg/day and in rabbits at doses of 0.5, 0.5, and 1.5 mg/kg/day, approximately 1/10th of the maximal daily human topical dose. No significant trends were observed in the incidence of benign adenomas and carcinomas in the lungs of mice, and in the incidence of benign adenomas and carcinomas in the adrenal medullas of rats.

Studies were conducted: Animal studies were conducted to evaluate the increased tumorigenic risk with the use of adapalene and similar drugs (e.g., retinoids) when used in the laboratory or to sunlight. The results of these studies to human use should be advised to avoid or minimize exposure to sunlight or artificial UV irradiation.

**In vitro** studies, adapalene did not show any genotoxic activities.

**Pregnancy effects:** Pregnancy Category C: No data are available from oral doses of adapalene in rats at oral doses of adapalene up to 120 times the maximal human dose. Cutaneous route teratology studies were conducted in mice and rabbits at doses of 0.6; 2.0, and 6.0 mg/kg/day, up to 120 times the maximal daily human topical dose. No fetotoxicity and only minimal maternal toxicity were observed in the fetuses of mice and rabbits.

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Adapalene should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefits justify the potential risk to the fetus.

It is not known whether this drug is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when DIFFERIN® Solution is administered to a nursing woman.

**Pediatric Use:** Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients have not been established.

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

Common adverse reactions such as erythema, scaling, dryness, and pruritus will occur in 30-60% of patients. Pruritus immediately after application also occurs in 30-60% of patients. The following additional adverse reactions were reported in approximately 1% or less

of patients: skin irritation, burning/stinging, erythema, sunburn, and acne flares. These are most commonly seen during the first month of therapy and decrease in frequency and severity thereafter. All adverse effects with use of DIFFERIN® Solution during clinical trials were reversible upon discontinuation of therapy.

**OVERDOSAGE**

DIFFERIN® Solution is intended for cutaneous use only. If the medication is applied excessively, no more rapid or better results will be obtained and marked redness, peeling, or discomfort may occur. The acute oral toxicity of DIFFERIN® Solution in mice and rats is greater than 10 mL/kg. Chronic ingestion of the drug may lead to the same side effects as those associated with excessive oral intake of Vitamin A.

**DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION**

1. DIFFERIN® Solution should be applied once a day to affected areas.

2. Before retiring in the evening, wash and dry areas to be treated.

3. Apply a thin film of medication to the affected areas. Avoid the eyes, lips, and mucous membranes.

**Pledget:** Remove pledget from foil just before using. Discard pledget after single use. Do not use if seal is broken.

**Glass bottle:** Replace cap after each use.

During the early weeks of therapy, an apparent exacerbation of acne may occur. This is due to the action of the medication on previously unseen lesions and should not be considered a reason to discontinue therapy. Therapeutic results should be noticed after eight to twelve weeks of treatment.

**HOW SUPPLIED**

DIFFERIN® (adapalene solution) Solution, 0.1% is supplied in the following sizes:

- 30 mL glass bottle with applicator - NDC 6299-5905-30
- 60-count unit-of-use pledget - NDC 6299-5905-16

The applicator is designed so that the solution may be applied directly to the involved skin.

**Storage:** Store at controlled room temperature 20° - 25°C (68° - 77°F). Keep container tightly closed and store upright.

**CAUTION:** Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription.

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Revised: January 2000

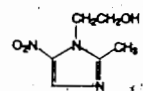
**METROCREAM®**

(metronidazole topical cream)  
Topical Cream, 0.75%

**FOR TOPICAL USE ONLY**  
(NOT FOR OPHTHALMIC USE)

**DESCRIPTION**

MetroCream® Topical Cream contains metronidazole, USP, at a concentration of 7.5 mg per gram (0.75%) in an emollient cream consisting of emulsifying wax, sorbitol solution, glycerin, isopropyl palmitate, benzyl alcohol, lactic acid and/or sodium hydroxide to adjust pH, and purified water. Metronidazole is a member of the imidazole class of antibacterial agents and is classified therapeutically as an antiprotozoal and antibacterial agent. Chemically, metronidazole is 2-methyl-5-nitro-1H-imidazole-1-ethanol. The molecular formula is C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>9</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and molecular weight is 171.16. Metronidazole is represented by the following structural formula:



**CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**

The mechanisms by which metronidazole acts in the treatment of rosacea are unknown, but appear to include an anti-inflammatory effect.

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

MetroCream® (metronidazole topical cream) Topical Cream is indicated for topical application in the treatment of inflammatory papules and pustules of rosacea.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**

MetroCream® (metronidazole topical cream) Topical Cream is contraindicated in individuals with a history of hypersensitivity to metronidazole, or other ingredients of the formulation.

**PRECAUTIONS**

**General:** Topical metronidazole has been reported to cause tearing of the eyes. Therefore, contact with the eyes should be avoided. If a reaction suggesting local irritation occurs, patients should be directed to use the medication less frequently or discontinue use. Metronidazole is a nitroimidazole and should be used with care in patients with evidence of, or history of blood dyscrasia.

**Information for patients:** This medication is to be used as directed by the physician. It is for external use only. Avoid contact with the eyes.

**Drug Interactions:** Oral metronidazole has been reported to potentiate the anticoagulant effect of warfarin and coumarin anticoagulants, resulting in a prolongation of prothrombin time. The effect of topical metronidazole on prothrombin time is not known.

**Carcinogenesis, mutagenesis, impairment of fertility:** Metronidazole has shown evidence of carcinogenic activity in a number of studies involving chronic oral administration in mice and rats but not in studies involving hamsters. Metronidazole has shown evidence of mutagenic activity in several *in vitro* bacterial assay systems. In addition, a dose-response increase in the frequency of micronuclei was observed in mice after intraperitoneal injections and an increase in chromosome aberrations have been reported in patients with Crohn's disease who were treated with 200-1200 mg/day of metronidazole for 1 to 24 months. However, no excess chromosomal aberrations in circulating human lymphocytes have been observed in patients treated for 8 months.

**Pregnancy:** Teratogenic effects: Pregnancy category B There are no adequate and well-controlled studies with the use of MetroCream® (metronidazole topical cream) Topical Cream in pregnant women. Metronidazole crosses the placental barrier and enters the fetal circulation rapidly. No fetotoxicity was observed after oral metronidazole in rats or mice. However, because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response and since oral metronidazole has been shown to be a carcinogen in some rodents, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

**Nursing Mothers:** After oral administration, metronidazole is secreted in breast milk in concentrations similar to those found in the plasma. Even though blood levels are significantly lower with topically applied metronidazole than those achieved after oral administration of metronidazole, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

**Pediatric Use:** Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients have not been established.

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

In controlled clinical trials, the total incidence of adverse reactions associated with the use of MetroCream® Topical Cream was approximately 10%. Skin discomfort (burning and stinging) was the most frequently reported event followed by erythema, skin irritation, pruritus and worsening of rosacea. All individual events occurred in less than 3% of patients.

The following additional adverse experiences have been reported with the topical use of metronidazole: dryness, transient redness, metallic taste, tingling or numbness of extremities and nausea.

**DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Apply and rub in a thin layer of MetroCream® (metronidazole topical cream) Topical Cream twice daily, morning and evening, to entire affected areas after washing.

Areas to be treated should be washed with a mild cleanser before application. Patients may use cosmetics after application of MetroCream® Topical Cream.

**HOW SUPPLIED**

MetroCream® (metronidazole topical cream) Topical Cream, 0.75% is supplied in a 45 g aluminum tube-NDC 0299-3836-45.

**Storage conditions:** STORE AT CONTROLLED ROOM TEMPERATURE: 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).

**Caution:** Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription.

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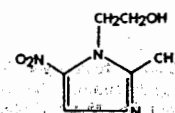
**METROGEL®**

(metronidazole topical gel)  
Topical Gel, 0.75%

**FOR TOPICAL USE ONLY**  
(NOT FOR OPHTHALMIC USE)

**DESCRIPTION**

MetroGel® Topical Gel contains metronidazole, USP, at a concentration of 7.5 mg per gram (0.75%) in a gel consisting of purified water, methylparaben, propylparaben, propylene glycol, carbomer 940, sodium hydroxide, and edetate disodium. Metronidazole is classified therapeutically as an antiprotozoal and antibacterial agent. Chemically, metronidazole is named 2-methyl-5-nitro-1H-imidazole-1-ethanol and has the following structure:



**CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**

Bioavailability studies on the topical administration of 1 gram of MetroGel® Topical Gel (7.5 mg of metronidazole) to

**Metrogel—Cont.**

the face of 40 rosacea patients showed a maximum serum concentration of 66 nanograms per milliliter in one patient. This concentration is approximately 100 times less than concentrations afforded by a single 250 mg oral tablet. The serum metronidazole concentrations were below the detectable limits of the assay at the majority of time points in all patients. Three of the patients had no detectable serum concentrations of metronidazole at any time point. The mean dose of gel applied during clinical studies was 800 mg which represents 4.5 mg of metronidazole per application. Therefore, under normal usage levels, the formulation affords minimal serum concentrations of metronidazole. The mechanism by which MetroGel® (metronidazole topical gel) Topical Gel acts in the treatment of rosacea are unknown, but appear to include an anti-inflammatory effect.

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

MetroGel® Topical Gel is indicated for topical application in the treatment of inflammatory papules and pustules of rosacea.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**

MetroGel® Topical Gel is contraindicated in individuals with a history of hypersensitivity to metronidazole, parabens, or other ingredients of the formulation.

**PRECAUTIONS**

**General:** MetroGel® Topical Gel has been reported to cause tearing of the eyes. Therefore, contact with the eyes should be avoided. If a reaction suggesting local irritation occurs, patients should be directed to use the medication less frequently or discontinue use. Metronidazole is a nitroimidazole and should be used with care in patients with evidence of, or history of blood dyscrasia.

**Information for patients:** This medication is to be used as directed by the physician. It is for external use only. Avoid contact with the eyes.

**Drug Interactions:** Oral metronidazole has been reported to potentiate the anticoagulant effect of coumarin and warfarin resulting in a prolongation of prothrombin time. The effect of topical metronidazole on prothrombin time is not known.

**Carcinogenesis, mutagenesis, impairment of fertility:** Metronidazole has shown evidence of carcinogenic activity in a number of studies involving chronic, oral administration in mice and rats but not in studies involving hamsters. Metronidazole has shown evidence of mutagenic activity in several *in vitro* bacterial assay systems. In addition, a dose-response increase in the frequency of micronuclei was observed in mice after intraperitoneal injections and an increase in chromosome aberrations have been reported in patients with Crohn's disease who were treated with 200-1200 mg/day of metronidazole for 1 to 24 months. However, no excess chromosomal aberrations in circulating human lymphocytes have been observed in patients treated for 6 months.

**Pregnancy: Teratogenic effects: Pregnancy category B.** There has been no experience to date with the use of MetroGel® (metronidazole topical gel) Topical Gel in pregnant patients. Metronidazole crosses the placental barrier and enters the fetal circulation rapidly. No fetotoxicity was observed after oral metronidazole in rats or mice. However, because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response and since oral metronidazole has been shown to be a carcinogen in some rodents, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

**Nursing mothers:** After oral administration, metronidazole is secreted in breast milk in concentrations similar to those found in the plasma. Even though MetroGel® Topical Gel blood levels are significantly lower than those achieved after oral metronidazole, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

**Pediatric use:** Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients have not been established.

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

The following adverse experiences have been reported with the topical use of metronidazole: burning, skin irritation, dryness, transient redness, metallic taste, tingling or numbness of extremities and nausea.

**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Apply and rub in a thin film of MetroGel® Topical Gel twice daily, morning and evening, to entire affected areas after washing.

Areas to be treated should be cleansed before application of MetroGel® (metronidazole topical gel) Topical Gel. Patients may use cosmetics after application of MetroGel® Topical Gel.

**HOW SUPPLIED**

MetroGel® (metronidazole topical gel) Topical Gel is supplied in a 1 oz (28.4 g) aluminum tube—NDC 0299-3835-28 and a 4.5 g aluminum tube—NDC 0299-3835-45.

**Storage conditions:** STORE AT CONTROLLED ROOM TEMPERATURE: 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).

**Caution:** Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription. 225032-0895

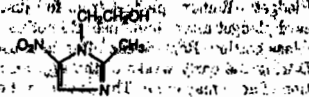
Revised August 1985

**METROLOTION® (metronidazole lotion)**

Topical Lotion, 0.75% w/w  
Rx only  
FOR TOPICAL USE ONLY (NOT FOR OPHTHALMIC USE)

**DESCRIPTION**  
Metrolotion® (metronidazole lotion) Topical Lotion contains metronidazole (MTR) at a concentration of 7.5 mg per gram (0.75% w/w) in a lotion consisting of benzyl alcohol, carbomer 941, cyclodextrin, glycerin, glyceryl stearate, light mineral oil, PEG-100 stearate, polyethylene glycol 400, potassium carbonate, purified water, starch-21, stearyl alcohol, and sodium hydroxide and/or lactic acid to adjust pH.

Metronidazole is an imidazole and is classified pharmacologically as an antiprotozoal and antibacterial agent. Chemically, metronidazole is 2-methyl-5-nitro-1H-imidazole-1-ethanol. The molecular formula is C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and molecular weight is 171.16. Metronidazole is represented by the following structural formula:



**CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**  
The mechanisms by which metronidazole acts in the treatment of rosacea are unknown, but appear to include an anti-inflammatory effect.

**Pharmacokinetics:** Absorption of metronidazole after topical application of MetroLotion® Topical Lotion is less complete and more prolonged than after oral administration. Detectable plasma levels were found in all subjects following the administration of a single 1 gram dose of MetroLotion® Topical Lotion (containing 7.5 mg of metronidazole) to the faces of 12 healthy volunteers. The highest concentration (64 ng/mL) seen was approximately 100 times lower than the peak concentrations produced by a single 250 mg tablet of metronidazole. The mean relative bioavailability of metronidazole from MetroLotion® Topical Lotion was 47.4%.

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

MetroLotion® Topical Lotion is indicated for topical application in the treatment of inflammatory papules and pustules of rosacea.

**CLINICAL STUDIES**

A controlled clinical study was conducted in 144 patients with moderate to severe rosacea, in which MetroLotion® Topical Lotion was compared with its vehicle. Applications were made twice daily for 12 weeks during which patients were instructed to avoid spicy foods, thermally hot foods and drinks, alcoholic beverages, and caffeine. Patients were also provided samples of a soapless cleansing lotion and, if requested, a moisturizer. MetroLotion® Topical Lotion was significantly more effective than its vehicle in mean percent reduction of inflammatory lesions associated with rosacea and in the investigators' global assessment of improvement. The results of the mean percent reduction in inflammatory lesions are shown in the following table. The results of the investigators' global assessment of improvement at week 12 are presented in the following table:

(See table below)

The scale is based on the following definitions:

- Worse:** Exacerbation of either erythema or quantitative assessment of papules and/or pustules.
- No Change:** Condition remains the same.
- Minimal Improvement:** Slight improvement in the quantitative assessment of papules and/or pustules, and/or slight improvement in erythema.
- Definite Improvement:** More pronounced improvement in the quantitative assessment of papules and/or pustules, and/or more pronounced improvement in erythema.

**Efficacy Outcome at Week 12**

**Mean Percent Reduction in Inflammatory Lesion Count**

MetroLotion® Topical Lotion	N=65	11%
Vehicle Lotion	N=80	15%

**Investigators' Global Assessment of Improvement (Patients Judged from Baseline)**

	Worse	No Change	Minimal Improvement	Definite Improvement
MetroLotion® Topical Lotion N=65	11%	27%	23%	39%
Vehicle Lotion N=80	15%	27%	23%	35%

**Marked Improvement**

Obvious improvement in papules and/or pustules in erythema.

**Clear:** No papules or pustules on the face.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**  
MetroLotion® Topical Lotion is contraindicated in individuals with a history of hypersensitivity to metronidazole, parabens, or other ingredients of the formulation.

**PRECAUTIONS**

**General:** Topical metronidazole should be used with care in patients with evidence of, or history of blood dyscrasia. Information for Patients: This medication is to be used as directed by the physician. It is for external use only. Avoid contact with the eyes.

1. This medication is to be used as directed by the physician.
2. It is for external use only.
3. Avoid contact with the eyes.
4. Cleanse affected areas before application.
5. Patients should avoid alcohol during treatment.

**Drug Interactions:** Oral metronidazole has been reported to potentiate the anticoagulant effect of coumarin and warfarin resulting in a prolongation of prothrombin time. The effect of topical metronidazole on prothrombin time is not known. **Carcinogenesis, mutagenesis, impairment of fertility:** Metronidazole has shown evidence of carcinogenic activity in a number of studies involving chronic, oral administration in mice and rats but not in studies involving hamsters. Metronidazole has shown evidence of mutagenic activity in several *in vitro* bacterial assay systems. In addition, a dose-response increase in the frequency of micronuclei was observed in mice after intraperitoneal injections and an increase in chromosome aberrations have been reported in patients with Crohn's disease who were treated with 200-1200 mg/day of metronidazole for 1 to 24 months. However, no excess chromosomal aberrations in circulating human lymphocytes have been observed in patients treated for 6 months.

**Pregnancy: Teratogenic effects: Pregnancy category B.** There has been no experience to date with the use of MetroLotion® Topical Lotion in pregnant patients. Metronidazole crosses the placental barrier and enters the fetal circulation rapidly. No fetotoxicity was observed after oral metronidazole in rats or mice. However, because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response and since oral metronidazole has been shown to be a carcinogen in some rodents, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

**Nursing mothers:** After oral administration, metronidazole is secreted in breast milk in concentrations similar to those found in the plasma. Even though MetroLotion® Topical Lotion blood levels are significantly lower than those achieved after oral metronidazole, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

**Pediatric use:** Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients have not been established.

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

The following adverse experiences have been reported with the topical use of metronidazole: burning, skin irritation, dryness, transient redness, metallic taste, tingling or numbness of extremities and nausea.

**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Apply and rub in a thin film of MetroLotion® Topical Lotion twice daily, morning and evening, to entire affected areas after washing.

Areas to be treated should be cleansed before application of MetroLotion® Topical Lotion. Patients may use cosmetics after application of MetroLotion® Topical Lotion.

**HOW SUPPLIED**

MetroLotion® (metronidazole lotion) Topical Lotion is supplied in a 4.5 g aluminum tube—NDC 0299-3835-45.

**Storage conditions:** STORE AT CONTROLLED ROOM TEMPERATURE: 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).

**Caution:** Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription. 225032-0895

Revised August 1985

**MetroCream®**

(メトロニダゾール局所用クリーム)

局所用クリーム, 0.75%

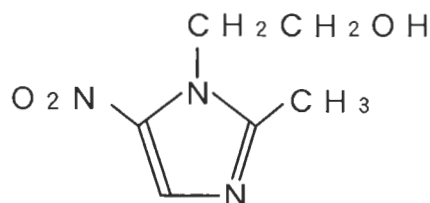
局所用のみに限定

(目には使用しないこと)

**説明**

MetroCream®局所用クリームは、乳化ワックス、ソルビトール液、グリセリン、イソプロピルパルミチン酸、ベンジルアルコール、乳酸、精製水、必要に応じてpH調整の為の水酸化ナトリウムを加えた柔らかい軟膏基剤1g中に、メトロニダゾール USP(米国薬局方)を7.5mg (0.75%) 含有するものである。メトロニダゾールは化学的にはニトロイミダゾールに属する抗菌化合物に分類され、治療剤としては抗原虫剤及び抗菌剤に分類されている。メトロニダゾールの化学名は2-メチル-5-ニトロ-1H-イミダゾール-1-エタノール、分子式は $C_6H_9N_3O_3$ 、分子量は171.16であり、次の化学構造を有する。

**化学構造式**



**臨床薬理**

メトロニダゾールが、酒さを改善するメカニズムは不明であるが、恐らくはメトロニダゾールの抗炎症作用が関与しているものと考えられる。

**適応症と用法**

MetroCream®局所用クリームは、酒さの炎症性の丘疹、膿疱の治療の為に外用で使用する適応を有する。

**禁忌**

MetroCream®局所用クリームは、メトロニダゾールあるいはクリーム基剤中の成分に対して、過去に過敏性反応の既往を有する人に対しては禁忌である。

## 注意事項

**一般的事項：**局所用メトロニダゾールが催涙を起こしたという報告がある。従って、目に入らないように注意すること。もしも局所刺激作用を疑うような反応が見られた場合には、患者に対して薬剤の使用頻度を減らすか、使用を停止するよう指示を出す必要がある。メトロニダゾールは、ニトロイミダゾールに属する化合物であるので、血液障害の既往あるいは症状を有する患者には十分注意して使用すること。

**患者への説明：**この医薬品は臨床医の指示のもとに使用するものである。

適用法は外用。目に入らないように注意すること。

**薬剤の相互作用：**メトロニダゾールを経口投与した際に、ワルファリン及びクマリンの抗凝固作用が増強され、その結果プロトロンビン時間の延長することが報告されている。外用で用いたメトロニダゾールが、プロトロンビン時間に影響したという報告は知られていない。

**発癌性、変異原性、受精障害：**メトロニダゾールに発癌性のあることについては、マウス、ラットに長期経口投与した試験を含めて多くの研究が報告されている。しかし、ハムスターにおける検討結果は陰性であった。メトロニダゾールは、いくつかの細菌を用いた *in vitro* の試験で変異原性が示されている。加えて、マウスに腹腔内投与した試験で、用量依存性に小核を有する細胞の頻度が増加したとの報告、また、メトロニダゾールを1日200-1200mg、1ヶ月から24ヶ月投与されたクローン病患者で、染色体異常の頻度が増えたという報告がある。しかし、8ヶ月間メトロニダゾールの治療を受けた患者の循環リンパ球の染色体異常の頻度に変化は観察されていない。

**妊娠：催奇形性=妊娠カテゴリ B** 妊婦を対象とした本剤の適切で十分にコントロールされた臨床試験は行われていない。メトロニダゾールは、血液胎盤関門を通過して胎児の循環の中へ速やかに移行する。ラット及びマウスに経口投与した試験では、胎児毒性は認められなかった。しかし、動物を使った生殖試験でヒトに起こる反応が全て予見できるとは限らないこと、また、本薬の経口投与で齧歯類の一部に発癌性が見られたことを考慮すると、本剤の妊婦への使用は、本剤の使用が必要不可欠であることが明確な場合に限定すべきである。

**授乳中の婦人：**メトロニダゾールは、経口投与後、血漿中濃度と同じ程度に乳汁中に分泌される。本剤の外用では、経口投与の場合に比較してメトロニダゾールの血中濃度ははるかに低いものであるが、本薬が母親にとってどれほど必要であるかを考慮して、授乳を止めるか、本剤の使用を止めるかの決断が必要である。

**小児における使用：**本剤の小児における安全性と有効性は確立されていない。

## 副作用

MetroCream®のコントロールされた臨床試験における副作用頻度の総計は約10%であった。その内訳は、皮膚不快感（灼熱感、チクチク感）が最も多く、以下、紅斑、皮膚刺激感、



搔痒感、酒さの増悪であった。個々の症状の発現頻度はいずれも3%未満であった。メトロニダゾールの局所使用ではほかにも下記の副作用が報告されている。灼熱感、皮膚の刺激、皮膚の乾燥、一過性の発赤、金属のような味、四肢のピリピリ感及びシビレ感、悪心。

#### 用法・用量

MetroCream®局所用クリームは朝夕の2回、洗ってきれいにした患部全体に薄くのぼして擦り込む。

患部は塗布の前に必ず刺激の無い洗剤できれいに洗うこと。

本剤を塗布した後で化粧することは差し支えない。

#### 包装

MetroCream®局所用クリームは、アルミチューブに45g入り製品として供給。

保管方法 : 15度～30度に保持された室内に保管すること。

#### 注意

連邦法により処方箋なしでの販売は禁止されている。

発売元 : GALDERMA Laboratories, Inc., FortWorth, Texas 76133  
USA

製造元 : DPT Laboratories, Inc. San Antonio, Texas 78215  
USA

GALDERMA は登録商標である。

改訂年月 : 1995年6月

PDR® (PHYSICIANS' DESK REFERENCE) 55 edition 2001

**METROGEL®**

(メトロニダゾール局所用ゲル)

局所用ゲル, 0.75%

局所用のみに限定

(目には使用しないこと)

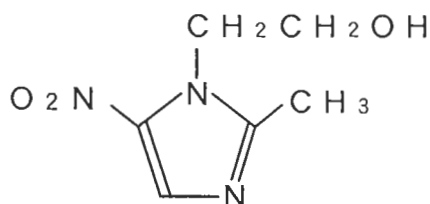
説明

**MetroGel®**局所用ゲルは、精製水、メチルパラベン、プロピルパラベン、プロピレングリコール、カルボマー-940、水酸化ナトリウム、EDTA-2 ナトリウムより成るゲルの中に1g中に、メトロニダゾールを7.5mg (0.75%)を含有する。

メトロニダゾールは、治療上、抗原虫剤及び抗菌剤として分類されている。

メトロニダゾールの化学名は、2-メチル-5-ニトロ-1H-イミダゾール-1-エタノールであり、次の化学構造を有する。

化学構造式



臨床薬理

**MetroGel®**局所用ゲル1g (メトロニダゾール7.5mg) を10名の酒さ患者の顔面に投与した生物学的利用能試験で、1名に最高血清中濃度66ng/mlが観察された。この濃度は、本薬250mg錠を単回経口投与後に得られる血中濃度の、約100分の1に相当する。いずれの患者においても、殆どの測定時間の血中薬物濃度は検出限界以下であった。3名では全く検出できなかった。臨床試験で適用された局所用ゲル剤の平均使用量は1回600mg、メトロニダゾールとしては4.5mgに相当する。従って、通常の使用条件下で起こる本薬の血中濃度の上昇はきわめて低いと思われる。**MetroGel®**が酒さの治療に際してどのような機作で作用しているかは不明であるが、恐らくはメトロニダゾールの有する抗炎症作用が関与しているものと考えられる。

適応症と用法

**MetroGel** 局所用ゲルは、酒さの炎症性の丘疹、膿疱の治療の為に外用で使用する適応を有する。

### **禁忌**

**MetroGel** 局所用ゲルは、メトロニダゾールあるいはゲル基剤中の成分に対して、過去に過敏性反応の既往を有する人に対しては禁忌である。

### **注意事項**

**一般的事項：** **MetroGel** 局所用ゲルは催涙作用を起こしたという報告がある。従って、目に

入らないように注意すること。もしも局所刺激作用を疑うような反応が見られた場合には、患者に対して薬剤の使用頻度を減らすか、使用を停止するよう指示を出す必要がある。メトロニダゾールは、ニトロイミダゾールに属する化合物であるので、血液障害の既往あるいは症状を有する患者には十分注意して使用すること。

**患者への説明：** この医薬品は臨床医の指示のもとに使用するものである。

適用法は外用。目に入らないように注意すること。

**薬剤の相互作用：** メトロニダゾールを経口投与した際に、ワルファリン及びクマリンの抗凝固作用が増強され、その結果プロトロンビン時間の延長することが報告されている。外用で用いたメトロニダゾールが、プロトロンビン時間に影響したという報告は知られていない。

**発癌性、変異原性、受精障害：** メトロニダゾールに発癌性のあることについては、マウス、ラットに長期経口投与した試験を含めて多くの研究が報告されている。しかし、ハムスターにおける検討結果は陰性であった。メトロニダゾールは、いくつかの細菌を用いた *in vitro* の試験で変異原性が示されている。加えて、マウスに腹腔内投与した試験で、用量依存性に小核を有する細胞の頻度が増加したとの報告、また、メトロニダゾールを 1 日 200-1200mg、1 ヶ月から 24 ヶ月投与されたクローン病患者で、染色体異常の頻度が増えたという報告がある。しかし、8 ヶ月間メトロニダゾールの治療を受けた患者の循環リンパ球の染色体異常の頻度に変化は観察されていない。

**妊娠：催奇形性=妊娠カテゴリー B** 妊婦を対象とした本剤の適切で十分にコントロールされた臨床試験は行われていない。メトロニダゾールは、血液胎盤関門を通過して胎児の循環の中へ速やかに移行する。ラット及びマウスに経口投与した試験では、胎児毒性は認められなかった。しかし、動物を使った生殖試験でヒトに起こる反応が全て予見できるとは限らないこと、また、本薬の経口投与で齧歯類の一部に発癌性が見られたことを考慮すると、本剤の妊婦への使用は、本剤の使用が必要不可欠であることが明確な場合に限定すべきである。

**授乳中の婦人：** メトロニダゾールは、経口投与後、血漿中濃度と同じ程度に乳汁中に分泌される。本剤の外用では、経口投与の場合に比較してメトロニダゾールの血中濃度ははるかに低いものであるが、本薬が母親にとってどれほど必要であるかを考慮して、授乳を止めるか、本剤の使用を止めるかの決断が必要である。

**小児における使用：** 本剤の小児における安全性と有効性は確立されていない。

#### **副作用**

メトロニダゾールの局所使用により次の副作用が報告されている：灼熱感、皮膚の刺激、皮膚の乾燥、一過性の発赤、金属のような味、四肢のピリピリする感覚及びシビレ感、悪心。

#### **用法・用量**

MetroGel 局所用ゲルは朝夕の2回、洗ってきれいにした患部全体に薄くのばして擦り込む。

患部は塗布の前に必ず刺激の無い洗剤できれいに洗うこと。

本剤を塗布した後で化粧することは差し支えない。

#### **包装**

MetroGel 局所用ゲルは、アルミチューブに 28.4 g、45 g 入り製品として供給。

**保管方法** : 15 度～30 度に保持された室内に保管すること。

#### **注意**

連邦法により処方箋なしでの販売は禁止されている。

発売元：GALDERMA Laboratories, Inc., FortWorth, Texas 76133

USA

製造元：DPT Laboratories, Inc. San Antonio, Texas 78215

USA

GALDERMA は登録商標である。

改訂年月 : 1995 年 8 月

PDR® (PHYSICIANS' DESK REFERENCE) 55 edition 2001