

# Palmetto State Pharmaceuticals

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## *Patient Drug Education*

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### **BACITRACIN 500 UNITS/GM OINTMN**

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#### **USES:**

This medication is used to prevent skin infections in minor skin injuries (e.g., scrapes, cuts, small burns). Bacitracin belongs to a class of drugs known as antibiotics. It works by killing the bacteria on the skin that can cause infection. This antibiotic prevents only bacterial infections. It will not work to prevent virus or fungus infections. Unnecessary use or misuse of any antibiotic can lead to its decreased effectiveness. Do not use on puncture wounds or animal/human bites, and do not apply this medication over large areas of skin. Consult your doctor for more information.

#### **HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION:**

**HOW TO USE:** Apply this product to the injured area of skin, usually 1 to 3 times daily. If this product is prescribed by your doctor, use exactly as directed. Clean and dry the affected area, removing any dried crust. Apply a thin film of medication to the affected area. Cover with a bandage if directed to do so by your doctor or pharmacist. Continue to treat the injury until it has healed. Keep this product out of the eyes and mouth. If you do get the medication in these areas, flush with plenty of water. Use this medication regularly to get the most benefit from it. To help you remember, use it at the same time(s) each day. If this product is prescribed by your doctor, do not use more of this medication than prescribed, use it more frequently, or keep using it for longer than prescribed. Your skin condition will not improve any faster, and your risk of side effects may be increased. Tell your doctor immediately if there is spreading redness around your skin injury or if the wound leaks a cloudy/whitish/bloody fluid.

#### **SIDE EFFECTS:**

Irritation, redness, and itching may occur. If any of these effects persist or worsen, tell your doctor or pharmacist promptly. A very serious allergic reaction to this drug is rare. However, seek immediate medical attention if you notice any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction, including: rash, itching, swelling, severe dizziness, trouble breathing. If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

#### **PRECAUTIONS:**

Before using bacitracin, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to neomycin; or if you have any other allergies. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: weakened immune system (e.g., due to cancer, HIV/AIDS, low white blood cells), advanced diabetes, blood circulation problems (e.g., peripheral vascular disease). Rarely, this medication may be absorbed into the bloodstream if you are applying it to a large area of skin with open wounds. Consult your doctor for other precautions in this case. During pregnancy, this medication should be used only when clearly needed. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor. This medication is considered safe to use while breast-feeding.

#### **DRUG INTERACTIONS:**

Your doctor or pharmacist may already be aware of any possible drug interactions and may be monitoring you for them. Do not start, stop, or change the dosage of any medicine before checking with your doctor or pharmacist first.

#### **NOTES:**

If your doctor has prescribed this medication, do not share it with others. If your doctor has prescribed this medication, keep all medical appointments so that he/she can monitor your progress or check for side effects.

#### **MISSED 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.

#### **STORAGE:**

Store at room temperature between 59-86 degrees F (15-30 degrees C) away from light. Keep all medicines away from children and pets.