

Palmetto State Pharmaceuticals

Patient Drug Education

SILVER SULFADIAZINE 1% CREAM

USES:

This medication is used alone or with other medications to help prevent and treat wound infections in patients with severe burns. Silver sulfadiazine belongs to a class of drugs known as topical antibiotics. It works by killing bacteria that may infect an open wound. This helps to decrease the risk of the bacteria spreading to surrounding skin or to the blood, causing a serious blood infection (sepsis).

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION:

HOW TO USE: Apply this medication to a wound using sterile techniques (e.g., using sterile rubber gloves and sterile application swab or tongue depressor), usually 1-2 times daily or as directed by your doctor. The layer of cream should be about one-sixteenth of an inch (1-2 millimeters) thick. The wound should be covered with the cream at all times. Bandages may be applied over the cream, but this is not necessary. If some of the cream rubs off the wound, reapply it immediately. The cream should also be reapplied immediately after hydrotherapy. Treatment usually continues until the wound is completely healed. Dosage is based on your medical condition and response to therapy. Use this medication regularly in order to get the most benefit from it. To help you remember, use it at the same time(s) each day. Inform your doctor if your condition persists or worsens or if you notice increasing redness/tenderness of the skin around the wound.

SIDE EFFECTS:

Pain, burning, or itching may occur at the site of application. If any of these effects persist or worsen, notify your doctor or pharmacist promptly. Remember that your doctor has prescribed this medication because he or she has judged that the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects. Many people using this medication do not have serious side effects. Tell your doctor immediately if any of these unlikely but serious side effects occur: change in skin color. Tell your doctor immediately if any of these rare but very serious side effects occur: fever, chills, cough, breathing problems, new diarrhea, sore throat, decrease in the amount of urine, blackening of skin, new/severe tiredness, weakness, bluish fingernails/lips, pale skin, fast heartbeat, persistent nausea, stomach/abdominal pain, dark urine, yellowing eyes/skin, easy bruising/bleeding. 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 silver sulfadiazine, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to other sulfa antibiotics; or if you have any other allergies. This medication should not be used if you have certain medical conditions. Before using this medicine, consult your doctor or pharmacist if you have: a certain blood enzyme deficiency (G-6-PD, glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase). Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: kidney problems, liver problems, low white blood cells. Silver sulfadiazine should not be used to treat premature babies or newborns during the first 2 months of life. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant before using this medication. This medication is not recommended for use during the last month of pregnancy because of possible harm to the unborn baby. Consult your doctor for more details. Based on information for similar drugs, this medication may pass into breast milk. Therefore, breast-feeding while using this medication is not recommended. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

DRUG INTERACTIONS:

Your healthcare professionals 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 them first. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist of all prescription and nonprescription/herbal products you may use, especially of: topical proteolytic enzymes for removing non-living tissue/fluids from wounds. If you are currently using any of these medications listed above, tell your doctor or pharmacist before starting silver sulfadiazine.

NOTES:

Do not share this medication with others. Laboratory and/or medical tests (e.g., white blood cell count, liver function tests) should be performed periodically to check for side effects. Consult your doctor for more details.

MISSED DOSE:

If you miss a dose, use it as soon as you remember. This medicine should be on the wounds at all times as directed by your doctor.

STORAGE:

Store the US product at room temperature at 68 degrees F (20 degrees C) away from light and moisture. Do not store in the bathroom. Store the Canadian product at 46-77 degrees F (8-25 degrees C) away from light and moisture. The Canadian 250- and 500-gram jars should be discarded 24 hours after opening. The Canadian tubes should be discarded 7 days after opening. Do not store in the bathroom. Keep all medicines away from children and pets.