

# Clobetasol propionate

## Clobetasol 0.05% cream

### When used in inflammatory skin conditions

Clobetasol propionate (Cloh-beeta-zol proh-pee-oh-nate) is a medicine which is used in inflammatory skin conditions and psoriasis.

### Your medicine

Clobetasol propionate reduces inflammation and can help to relieve the symptoms of inflammatory skin problems. Clobetasol propionate is only used when the skin problem has not responded well to previous treatment with a less active steroid.

#### Other information about Clobetasol propionate:

- if your symptoms get worse or do not improve within two to four weeks of starting treatment with Clobetasol propionate you should contact your prescriber
- your prescriber will try to find the lowest dose of your medicine which can control your condition
- this medicine is for external use only. Take care not to get Clobetasol propionate into your eyes. If you accidentally get Clobetasol propionate into your eyes, rinse your eye with water
- this medicine can only be used for a maximum of five days in children
- this medicine should not be used for a long time if the treatment area is on the face or if it is tightly covered or sealed with a dressing

Do not share your medicine with other people. It may not be suitable for them and may harm them.

The pharmacy label on your medicine tells you how much medicine you should use. It also tells you how often you should use your medicine. This is the dose that you and your prescriber have agreed you should use. You should not change the dose of your medicine unless you are told to do so by your prescriber.

If you feel that the medicine is making you unwell or you do not think it is working, then talk to your prescriber.

### When to take your medicine

Some medicines work best if they are taken at a specific time of day. Getting the most from your medicine can also be affected by the times at which you take other medicines.

Specific information on when to use Clobetasol propionate can be found in the Patient Information Leaflet that comes with this medicine. Alternatively, you can request information about when to take your medicine from your doctor or pharmacist.

### How to take your medicine

Some medicines have specific instructions about how to take them. This is because they work better when taken correctly. These instructions can include getting the right dose and special instructions for preparing the medicine.

Specific information on how to use Clobetasol propionate can be found in the Patient Information Leaflet that comes with this medicine or on the medicine label. Alternatively, you can request information about how to take your medicine from your doctor or pharmacist.

If you are having problems taking this form of Clobetasol propionate, you should talk to your prescriber or pharmacist. They may be able to give you advice on other ways to take your medicine or other preparations that are easier for you to take.

### Taking too much of your medicine

Taking extra doses of some medicines can be harmful. In some cases even one extra dose can cause you problems. If you take extra doses of your medicine, you must get medical advice immediately. This is because the effects of taking too much medicine are very complex so it is very important that you seek medical advice.

Contact your prescriber, pharmacist, specialist clinic or NHS Direct on 0845 46 47 for advice.

Make sure you take all of your medicine containers with you if you are advised to go to hospital.

### Stopping your medicine

If you are not having any problems with this medicine, do not stop using it unless you have completed the course or you are advised to stop using it by your prescriber.

If you are in any doubt, contact your prescriber, pharmacist, specialist clinic or NHS Direct on 0845 46 47.

### Looking after your medicine

The instructions on how you should keep your medicine are on the pharmacy label. It is a good idea to keep your medicine in the original container. This will help to keep your medicine in the best condition and also allow you to check the instructions. Do not take the medicine if the packaging appears to have been tampered with or if the medicine shows any signs of damage. Make sure that the medicine is out of the sight and reach of children.

Specific information on how to look after Clobetasol propionate can be found in the Patient Information Leaflet that comes with this medicine or on the

medicine label. Alternatively, you can request information about how to look after your medicine from your doctor or pharmacist.

You must not take the medicine after the expiry date shown on the packaging. If you have any unused medicine, return it to your pharmacist who will dispose of it safely.

### Whether this medicine is suitable for you

Clobetasol propionate is not suitable for everyone and some people should never use it. Other people should only use it with special care. It is important that the person prescribing this medicine knows your full medical history.

*Your prescriber may only prescribe this medicine with special care or may not prescribe it at all if you:*

- are allergic or sensitive to or have had a reaction to any of the ingredients in the medicine
- have inflamed skin which needs treatment in the area around the mouth, back passage or the genitals
- have skin problems such as rosacea, acne or an infection in the area where Clobetasol propionate needs to be applied

Furthermore the prescriber may only prescribe this medicine with special care or may not prescribe it at all for an infant or a child

Over time it is possible that Clobetasol propionate can become unsuitable for some people, or they may become unsuitable for it. If at any time it appears that Clobetasol propionate has become unsuitable, it is important that the prescriber is contacted immediately.

### Side-effects

A medicine is only made available to the public if the clinical trials have shown that the benefits of taking the medicine outweigh the risks.

Once a medicine has been licensed, information on the medicine's effects, both intended and unintended, is continuously recorded and updated.

Some side-effects may be serious while others may only be a mild inconvenience.

Everyone's reaction to a medicine is different. It is difficult to predict which side-effects you will have from taking a particular medicine, or whether you will have any side-effects at all. The important thing is to tell your prescriber or pharmacist if you are having problems with your medicine.

*The frequency of these side-effects is unknown*

- eye or eyesight problems if Clobetasol propionate gets into the eye
- hair overgrowth
- hypersensitivity reactions such as redness, skin rashes, itching, urticaria, burning sensation or dermatitis - seek medical advice if you get any type of hypersensitivity reactions
- if Clobetasol propionate is used in large amount or for a long period of time, it may have some effects on the skin such as thinning, striae or dilation of superficial blood vessels
- if Clobetasol propionate is used in large amounts or for a long period of time, the amount of Clobetasol propionate which is absorbed into the body may be increased and certain side-effects may occur. These side-effects are related to the effect that steroids have on the whole body. These may include cushing-like symptoms or adrenal problems
- increased absorption of Clobetasol propionate when the treated area of skin is in a skin fold or if the area is tightly covered or sealed - this may make side-effects more likely to occur
- skin colour changes
- worsening of the problem that Clobetasol propionate is being used to treat

If you feel unwell or if you have concerns about a side-effect, you will need to seek advice. If you feel very ill, get medical help straight away. Contact your prescriber, pharmacist, nurse or call NHS Direct on 0845 46 47.

### Taking other medicines

There are no known important interactions between Clobetasol propionate and other medicines. If you experience any unusual symptoms while using Clobetasol propionate and other medicines you should tell your prescriber.

### Complementary preparations and vitamins

Medicines can interact with complementary preparations and vitamins. In general, there is not much information available about interactions between medicines and complementary preparations or vitamins.

If you are planning to take or are already taking any complementary preparations and vitamins you should ask your prescriber whether there are any known interactions with Clobetasol propionate.

Your prescriber can advise whether it is appropriate for you to take combinations that are known to

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interact. They can also discuss with you the possible effect that the complementary preparations and vitamins may have on your condition.

If you experience any unusual effects while taking this medicine in combination with complementary preparations and vitamins, you should tell your prescriber.

### Driving and operating machinery

When taking any medicine you should be aware that it might interfere with your ability to drive or operate machinery safely.

#### *In the case of Clobetasol propionate:*

- this medicine is unlikely to affect driving ability or the ability to operate machinery

You should see how this medicine affects you before you judge whether you are safe to drive or operate machinery. If you are in any doubt about whether you should drive or operate machinery, talk to your prescriber.

### Diet

Medicines can interact with certain foods. In some cases, this may be harmful and your prescriber may advise you to avoid certain foods.

#### *In the case of Clobetasol propionate:*

- there are no specific foods that you must exclude from your diet when using Clobetasol propionate

### Alcohol

Alcohol can interact with certain medicines.

#### *In the case of Clobetasol propionate:*

- there are no known interactions between alcohol and Clobetasol propionate

### Family planning and pregnancy

Most medicines, in some way, can affect the development of a baby in the womb. The effect on the baby differs between medicines and also depends on the stage of pregnancy that you have reached when you take the medicine.

#### *In the case of Clobetasol propionate:*

- the use of this medicine during pregnancy is not recommended. You should only use this medicine during pregnancy if your doctor thinks that you need it

You need to discuss your specific circumstances with your doctor to weigh up the overall risks and benefits of taking this medicine. You and your doctor can make a decision about whether you are going to take this medicine during pregnancy.

If the decision is that you should not have Clobetasol propionate, then you should discuss whether there is an alternative medicine that you could take during pregnancy.

### Breast-feeding

Certain medicines can pass into breast milk and may reach your baby through breast-feeding.

#### *In the case of Clobetasol propionate:*

- there is not enough evidence to say that it is safe to use Clobetasol propionate while breast-feeding

Before you have your baby you should discuss breast-feeding with your doctor or midwife. They will help you decide what is best for you and your baby based on the benefits and risks associated with this medicine. You should only breast-feed your baby while taking this medicine on the advice of your doctor or midwife.

### Ingredients of your medicine

Medicines contain active ingredients. They may also contain other, additional ingredients that help ensure the stability, safety and effectiveness of the medicine. They are also added to improve the medicine's appearance and to make it easier to use. Some may be used to prolong the life of the medicine.

This medicine contains clobetasol propionate.

We are unable to list all of the ingredients for your medicine here. For a full list, you should refer to the patient information leaflet that comes with this medicine. You should check that you are able to take the ingredients of your medicine, especially if you have any allergies. You should also check whether any of these ingredients are known to have side-effects.

If you are not able to take any of the ingredients in your medicine, talk to your prescriber or pharmacist to see if they can suggest an alternative medicine. If you have reacted badly to Clobetasol propionate before, do not take Clobetasol propionate. Talk to your prescriber, pharmacist or nurse as soon as possible.