

## Topicort® Ointment (desoximetasone) 0.25%

**FOR DERMATOLOGIC USE ONLY.  
NOT FOR USE IN EYES.**

### Rx Only

#### DESCRIPTION

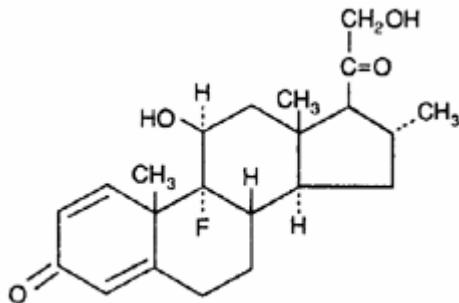
Topicort® (desoximetasone) Ointment 0.25% contains the active synthetic corticosteroid desoximetasone. The topical corticosteroids constitute a class of primarily synthetic steroids used as anti-inflammatory and anti-pruritic agents.

Each gram of TOPICORT Ointment contains 2.5 mg of Desoximetasone in a base consisting of White Petrolatum USP, Propylene Glycol USP, Sorbitan Sesquioleate, Beeswax, Fatty Alcohol Citrate, Fatty Acid Pentaerythritol Ester, Aluminum Stearate, Citric Acid, and Butylated Hydroxyanisole.

The chemical name of desoximetasone is Pregna-1, 4-diene-3, 20-dione, 9-fluoro-11, 21-dihydroxy-16-methyl-, (11β, 16α)-.

Desoximetasone has the empirical formula  $C_{22}H_{29}FO_4$  and a molecular weight of 376.47.

The CAS Registry Number is 382-67-2. The chemical structure is:



#### CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Topical corticosteroids share anti-inflammatory, anti-pruritic, and vasoconstrictive actions.

The mechanism of anti-inflammatory activity of the topical corticosteroids is unclear. Various laboratory methods, including vasoconstrictor assays, are used to compare and predict potencies and/or clinical efficacies of the topical corticosteroids. There is some evidence to suggest that a recognizable correlation exists between vasoconstrictor potency and therapeutic efficacy in man.

## **Pharmacokinetics**

The extent of percutaneous absorption of topical corticosteroids is determined by many factors, including the vehicle, the integrity of the epidermal barrier, and the use of occlusive dressings.

Topical corticosteroids can be absorbed from normal intact skin. Inflammation and/or other disease processes in the skin increase percutaneous absorption. Occlusive dressings substantially increase the percutaneous absorption of topical corticosteroids. Thus, occlusive dressings may be a valuable therapeutic adjunct for treatment of resistant dermatoses.

Once absorbed through the skin, topical corticosteroids are handled through pharmacokinetic pathways similar to systemically administered corticosteroids. Corticosteroids are bound to plasma proteins in varying degrees. Corticosteroids are metabolized primarily in the liver and are then excreted by the kidneys. Some of the topical corticosteroids and their metabolites are also excreted into the bile.

Pharmacokinetic studies in men with Topicort<sup>®</sup> (desoximetasone) Ointment 0.25% with tagged desoximetasone showed no detectable level (limit of sensitivity: 0.003 µg/mL) in 1 subject and 0.004 and 0.006 µg/mL in the remaining 2 subjects in the blood when it was applied topically on the back followed by occlusion for 24 hours. The extent of absorption for the ointment was 7% based on radioactivity recovered from urine and feces. Seven days after application, no further radioactivity was detected in urine or feces. Studies with other similarly structured steroids have shown that predominant metabolite reaction occurs through conjugation to form the glucuronide and sulfate ester.

## **INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

TOPICORT Ointment is indicated for the relief of the inflammatory and pruritic manifestations of corticosteroid-responsive dermatoses.

## **CONTRAINDICATIONS**

Topical corticosteroids are contraindicated in those patients with a history of hypersensitivity to any of the components of the preparation.

## **WARNINGS**

Topicort<sup>®</sup> (desoximetasone) Ointment 0.25% is not for ophthalmic use.

**Keep out of reach of children.**

## **PRECAUTIONS**

### **General**

Systemic absorption of topical corticosteroids has produced reversible hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis suppression, manifestations of Cushing's syndrome, hyperglycemia, and glucosuria in some patients.

Conditions which augment systemic absorption include the application of the more potent steroids, use over large surface areas, prolonged use, and the addition of occlusive dressings.

Therefore, patients receiving a large dose of a potent topical steroid applied to a large surface area or under an occlusive dressing should be evaluated periodically for evidence of HPA axis suppression by using the urinary free cortisol and ACTH stimulation tests. If HPA axis suppression is noted, an attempt should be made to withdraw the drug, to reduce the frequency of application, or to substitute a less potent steroid.

Recovery of HPA axis function is generally prompt and complete upon discontinuation of the drug. Infrequently, signs and symptoms of steroid withdrawal may occur, requiring supplemental systemic corticosteroids.

Pediatric patients may absorb proportionally larger amounts of topical corticosteroids and thus be more susceptible to systemic toxicity (See PRECAUTIONS - Pediatric Use).

If irritation develops, topical corticosteroids should be discontinued and appropriate therapy instituted.

In the presence of dermatological infections, the use of an appropriate antifungal or antibacterial agent should be instituted. If a favorable response does not occur promptly, the corticosteroid should be discontinued until the infection has been adequately controlled.

### **Information for the Patient**

Patients using topical corticosteroids should receive the following information and instructions:

1. This medication is to be used as directed by the physician. It is for external use only. Avoid contact with the eyes.
2. Patients should be advised not to use this medication for any disorder other than for which it was prescribed.
3. The treated skin area should not be bandaged or otherwise covered or wrapped as to be occlusive unless directed by the physician.
4. Patients should report any signs of local adverse reactions, especially under occlusive dressing.
5. Parents of pediatric patients should be advised not to use tight-fitting diapers or plastic pants on a child being treated in the diaper area, as these garments may constitute occlusive dressings.

### **Laboratory Tests**

The following tests may be helpful in evaluating the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis suppression:

- Urinary free cortisol test
- ACTH stimulation test

### **Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility**

Long-term animal studies have not been performed to evaluate the carcinogenic potential or the effect on fertility of desoximetasone.

Desoximetasone was nonmutagenic in the Ames test.

### **Pregnancy Category: Teratogenic Effects: Pregnancy Category C**

Corticosteroids have been shown to be teratogenic in laboratory animals when administered systemically at relatively low dosage levels. Some corticosteroids have been shown to be teratogenic after dermal application in laboratory animals.

Desoximetasone has been shown to be teratogenic and embryotoxic in mice, rats, and rabbits when given by subcutaneous or dermal routes of administration in doses 3 to 30 times the human dose of Topicort® (desoximetasone) Ointment 0.25%.

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women on teratogenic effects from topically applied corticosteroids. Therefore, TOPICORT Ointment should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus. Drugs of this class should not be used extensively on pregnant patients, in large amounts, or for prolonged periods of time.

### **Nursing Mothers**

It is not known whether topical administration of corticosteroids could result in sufficient systemic absorption to produce detectable quantities in breast milk. Systemically administered corticosteroids are secreted into breast milk in quantities not likely to have a deleterious effect on the infant. Nevertheless, caution should be exercised when topical corticosteroids are administered to a nursing woman.

### **Pediatric Use**

**Pediatric patients may demonstrate greater susceptibility to topical corticosteroid-induced HPA axis suppression and Cushing's syndrome than mature patients because of a larger skin surface area to body weight ratio.**

HPA axis suppression, Cushing's syndrome, and intracranial hypertension have been reported in pediatric patients receiving topical corticosteroids.

Manifestations of adrenal suppression in pediatric patients include linear growth retardation, delayed weight gain, low plasma cortisol levels, and absence of response to ACTH stimulation. Manifestations of intracranial hypertension include bulging fontanelles, headaches, and bilateral papilledema.

Administration of topical corticosteroids to pediatric patients should be limited to the least amount compatible with an effective therapeutic regimen.

Chronic corticosteroid therapy may interfere with the growth and development of pediatric patients. Safety and effectiveness of TOPICORT Ointment in pediatric patients below the age of 10 have not been established.

### **ADVERSE REACTIONS**

The following local adverse reactions are reported infrequently with topical corticosteroids, but may occur more frequently with the use of occlusive dressings. These reactions are listed in an approximate decreasing order of occurrence: burning, itching, irritation, dryness, folliculitis, hypertrichosis, acneiform eruptions,

hypopigmentation, perioral dermatitis, allergic contact dermatitis, maceration of the skin, secondary infection, skin atrophy, striae and miliaria.

In controlled clinical studies the incidence of adverse reactions was low (0.3%) for Topicort<sup>®</sup> (desoximetasone) Ointment 0.25% and consisted of development of comedones at the site of application.

### **OVERDOSAGE**

Topically applied corticosteroids can be absorbed in sufficient amount to produce systemic effects (See PRECAUTIONS).

### **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Apply a thin film of TOPICORT Ointment to the affected skin areas twice daily. Rub in gently.

### **HOW SUPPLIED**

Topicort<sup>®</sup> (desoximetasone) Ointment 0.25% is supplied in 15 gram (NDC 99207-025-15), and 60 gram (NDC 99207-025-60) tubes.

Store at controlled room temperature 15° - 30°C (59° - 86°F).

Prescribing Information as of April 1999.

Manufactured for:

MEDICIS, The Dermatology Company<sup>®</sup>

Phoenix, AZ 85018

by: Hoechst Marion Roussel Deutschland GmbH,

D-65926 Frankfurt am Main

Made in Germany

REG TM HOECHST AG