

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use DIFFERIN Gel safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for DIFFERIN Gel.

DIFFERIN® (adapalene) gel, for topical use
Initial U.S. Approval: 1996

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

DIFFERIN Gel, 0.3%, is a retinoid, indicated for the topical treatment of acne vulgaris in patients 12 years of age and older. (1)

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Wash affected areas gently with a non-medicated soap. (2)
- Apply a thin film of DIFFERIN Gel, to the entire face and other affected areas of the skin once daily in the evening. (2) For topical use only. Not for ophthalmic, oral or intravaginal use. (2)

DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

Gel, 0.3% (3)

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Contraindicated in patients who have known hypersensitivity to adapalene or any excipient of DIFFERIN Gel. (4)

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- *Allergic/Hypersensitivity Reactions:* Allergy/hypersensitivity reactions include anaphylaxis, angioedema, urticaria, and pruritis. Discontinue DIFFERIN Gel in the event of an allergic/hypersensitivity reaction. (5.1)
- *Ultraviolet Light and Environmental Exposure:* Avoid exposure to sunlight and sunlamps. Wear sunscreen when sun exposure cannot be avoided (5.2).
- *Local Cutaneous Reactions:* Erythema, scaling, dryness, and stinging/burning were reported with use of DIFFERIN Gel. 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. (5.3).

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The most frequently reported ($\geq 1\%$) adverse reactions were dry skin, skin discomfort, pruritus, desquamation, and sunburn. (6.1)

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Galderma Laboratories, L.P. at 1-866-735-4137 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION and FDA-approved patient labeling.

Revised: 08/2022

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FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

DIFFERIN Gel is indicated for the topical treatment of acne vulgaris in patients 12 years of age and older.

2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Wash affected areas gently with a non-medicated soap. Apply a thin film of DIFFERIN Gel to the entire face and any other affected areas of the skin once daily in the evening. Avoid application to the areas of skin around eyes, lips, and mucous membranes. A mild transitory sensation of warmth or slight stinging may occur shortly after the application of DIFFERIN Gel.

Instruct patients to minimize sun exposure and to use moisturizers for relief of dry skin or irritation.

If therapeutic results are not noticed after 12 weeks of treatment, therapy should be reevaluated.

For topical use only. Not for ophthalmic, oral or intravaginal use.

3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

Each gram of DIFFERIN Gel, 0.3% contains 3 mg adapalene in an off-white aqueous gel.

4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

DIFFERIN Gel is contraindicated in patients who have known hypersensitivity to adapalene or any excipient of DIFFERIN Gel [see *WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS (5.1)*].

5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

5.1 Allergic/ Hypersensitivity Reactions

Adverse reactions including anaphylaxis angioedema, face edema, eyelid edema, lip swelling, and pruritus that sometimes required medical treatment have been reported during postmarketing use of adapalene. Advise a patient to stop using DIFFERIN Gel and seek medical attention if experiencing allergic or anaphylactoid/anaphylactic reactions during treatment.

5.2 Ultraviolet Light and Environmental Exposure

Exposure to sunlight, including sunlamps, should be minimized during use of DIFFERIN Gel. 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 DIFFERIN Gel.

5.3 Local Cutaneous Reactions

Cutaneous signs and symptoms such as erythema, scaling, dryness, and stinging/burning were reported with use of DIFFERIN Gel. These were most likely to occur during the first four weeks of treatment, were mostly mild to moderate in intensity, and usually lessened with continued use of the medication. Depending upon the severity of these side effects, patients should be instructed to either use a moisturizer, reduce the frequency of application of DIFFERIN Gel or discontinue use.

Avoid application to cuts, abrasions, eczematous or sunburned skin. As with other retinoids, use of “waxing” as a depilatory method should be avoided on skin treated with adapalene.

As DIFFERIN Gel has the potential to induce 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.

6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

6.1 Clinical Trials Experience

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reactions rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in practice.

In the multi-center, controlled clinical trial, signs and symptoms of local cutaneous irritation were monitored in 258 acne subjects who used DIFFERIN Gel once daily for 12 weeks. Of the subjects who experienced cutaneous irritation (erythema, scaling, dryness, and/or burning/stinging), the majority of cases were mild to moderate in severity, occurred early in treatment and decreased thereafter. The incidence of local cutaneous irritation with DIFFERIN Gel from the controlled clinical trial is provided in the following table:

Table 1: Physician assessed local cutaneous irritation with DIFFERIN Gel

Incidence of Local Cutaneous Irritation with DIFFERIN Gel (N =253*) Maximum Severity Scores Higher Than			
	Mild	Moderate	Severe
Erythema	66 (26.1%)	33 (13.0%)	1 (0.4%)
Scaling	110 (43.5%)	47 (18.6%)	3 (1.2%)
Dryness	113 (44.7%)	43 (17.0%)	2 (0.8%)
Burning/Stinging	72 (28.5%)	36 (14.2%)	9 (3.6%)

* Total number of subjects with local cutaneous data for at least one post-Baseline evaluation.

Table 2: Patient reported local cutaneous adverse reactions with DIFFERIN Gel

	DIFFERIN (adapalene) Gel	Vehicle Gel
	N=258	N=134
Related* Adverse Reactions	57 (22.1%)	6 (4.5%)
Dry Skin	36 (14%)	2 (1.5%)
Skin Discomfort	15 (5.8%)	0 (0.0%)
	4 (1.6%)	0 (0.0%)

* Selected adverse reactions defined by investigator as Possibly, Probably or Definitely Related

The following adverse reactions occurred in less than 1% of subjects: acne flare, contact dermatitis, eyelid edema, conjunctivitis, erythema, pruritus, skin discoloration, rash, and eczema.

In a one-year, open-label safety trial of 551 subjects with acne who received DIFFERIN Gel, the pattern of adverse reactions was similar to the 12-week controlled study.

6.2 Postmarketing Experience

The following adverse reactions have been identified during post approval use of adapalene:

Immune system disorders: angioedema, face edema, lip swelling

Skin disorders: application site pain

Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate the frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

8.1 Pregnancy

Risk Summary

Available data from clinical trials with DIFFERIN Gel use in pregnant women are insufficient to establish a drug-associated risk of major birth defects, miscarriage or other adverse maternal or fetal outcomes. In animal reproduction studies, oral administration of adapalene to pregnant rats and rabbits during organogenesis at dose exposures 40 and 81 times, respectively, the human exposure at the maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 2 g resulted in fetal skeletal and visceral malformations (*see Data*).

The background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage for the indicated population is unknown. All pregnancies have a background risk of birth defects, loss, or other adverse outcomes. In the U.S. general population the estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage in clinically recognized pregnancies are 2 to 4% and 15 to 20%, respectively.

Data

Animal Data

No malformations were observed in rats treated with oral adapalene doses of 0.15 to 5.0 mg/kg/day, up to 8 times the MRHD based on a mg/m² comparison. However, malformations were observed in rats and rabbits when treated with oral doses of ≥ 25 mg/kg/day adapalene (40 and 81 times the MRHD, respectively, based on a mg/m² comparison). Findings included cleft palate, microphthalmia, encephalocele, and skeletal abnormalities in rats and umbilical hernia, exophthalmos, and kidney and skeletal abnormalities in rabbits.

Dermal adapalene embryofetal development studies in rats and rabbits at doses up to 6.0 mg/kg/day (9.7 and 19.5 times the MRHD, respectively, based on a mg/m² comparison) exhibited no fetotoxicity and only minimal increases in skeletal variations (supernumerary ribs in both species and delayed ossification in rabbits).

8.2 Lactation

Risk Summary

There are no data on the presence of topical adapalene gel or its metabolite in human milk, the effects on the breastfed infant, or the effects on milk production. In animal studies, adapalene is present in rat milk with oral administration of the drug. When a drug is present in animal milk, it is likely that the drug will be present in human milk. It is possible that topical administration of large amounts of adapalene could result in sufficient systemic absorption to produce detectable quantities in human milk (*see Clinical Considerations*). The developmental and health benefits of breastfeeding should be considered along with the mother's clinical need for DIFFERIN Gel and any potential adverse effects on the breastfed child from DIFFERIN Gel, or from the underlying maternal condition.

Clinical Considerations

To minimize potential exposure to the breastfed infant via breastmilk, use DIFFERIN Gel on the smallest area of skin and for the shortest duration possible while breastfeeding. Avoid application of DIFFERIN Gel to areas with increased risk for potential ingestion by or ocular exposure to the breastfeeding child.

8.4 Pediatric Use

Safety and effectiveness have not been established in pediatric patients below the age of 12.

8.5 Geriatric Use

Clinical studies of DIFFERIN Gel did not include subjects 65 years of age and older to determine whether they respond differently than younger subjects. Safety and effectiveness in geriatric patients age 65 and above have not been established.

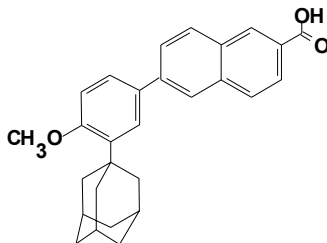
10 OVERDOSAGE

Chronic ingestion of the drug may lead to the same side effects as those associated with excessive oral intake of vitamin A.

11 DESCRIPTION

DIFFERIN (adapalene) Gel contains adapalene 0.3% (3 mg/g) in a topical aqueous gel for use in the treatment of acne vulgaris, consisting of carbomer 940, edetate disodium, methylparaben, poloxamer 124, propylene glycol, purified water, and sodium hydroxide. May contain hydrochloric acid for pH adjustment.

The chemical name of adapalene is 6-[3-(1-adamantyl)-4-methoxyphenyl]-2-naphthoic acid. It is a white to off-white powder, which is soluble in tetrahydrofuran, very slightly soluble in ethanol, and practically insoluble in water. The molecular formula is C₂₈H₂₈O₃ and molecular weight is 412.53. Adapalene is represented by the following structural formula.



12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

12.1 Mechanism of Action

Adapalene binds to specific retinoic acid nuclear receptors but does not bind to cytosolic receptor protein. Biochemical and pharmacological profile studies have demonstrated that adapalene is a modulator of cellular differentiation, keratinization, and inflammatory processes. However, the significance of these findings with regard to the mechanism of action of adapalene for the treatment of acne is unknown.

12.2 Pharmacodynamics

Clinical pharmacodynamic studies have not been conducted for DIFFERIN Gel.

12.3 Pharmacokinetics

Systemic exposure of adapalene following topical application of DIFFERIN Gel was evaluated in a clinical trial. Sixteen acne subjects were treated once daily for 10 days with 2 grams of DIFFERIN Gel applied to the face, chest and back, corresponding to approximately 2 mg/cm². Fifteen subjects had quantifiable (LOQ = 0.1 ng/mL) adapalene levels resulting in a mean C_{max} of 0.553 ± 0.466 ng/mL on Day 10 of treatment. The mean AUC_{0-24hr} was 8.37 ± 8.46 ng.h/mL as determined in 15 of the 16 subjects on Day 10. The terminal apparent half-life, determined in 15 of 16 subjects, ranged from 7 to 51 hours, with a mean of 17.2 ± 10.2 hours. Adapalene was rapidly cleared from plasma and was not detected 72 hours after the last application for all but one subject. Exposure of potential circulating metabolites of adapalene was not measured. Excretion of adapalene appears to be primarily by the biliary route.

In another clinical trial in subjects with moderate to moderately severe acne, DIFFERIN (adapalene) Gel, 0.3% or Adapalene Gel, 0.1% was applied to the face and optionally to the trunk, once daily for 12 weeks. Seventy-eight (78) subjects had plasma adapalene levels evaluated at Weeks 2, 8, and 12. Of the 209 plasma samples analyzed, adapalene concentrations were below the limit of detection (LOD = 0.15 ng/mL) of the method in all samples but three. For the three samples, traces of adapalene below the limit of quantification (LOQ = 0.25 ng/mL) of the method were found. One of these samples was taken at Week 12 from a male subject treated with DIFFERIN Gel, 0.3% who treated the face and the trunk for eight weeks (thereafter, only the face was treated). The second and third samples were from the Week 2 and 12 visits of a female subject treated with Adapalene Gel, 0.1% who treated only the face for 12 weeks. In this study, the average daily usage of product was 1 g/day.

13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

No carcinogenicity, genotoxicity, or impairment of fertility studies were conducted with DIFFERIN Gel.

Carcinogenicity studies with adapalene were conducted in mice at topical doses of 0.4, 1.3, and 4.0 mg/kg/day (1.2, 3.9, and 12 mg/m²/day) and in rats at oral doses of 0.15, 0.5, and 1.5 mg/kg/day (0.9, 3.0, and 9.0 mg/m²/day). The highest dose levels are 3.2 (mice) and 2.4 (rats) times the MRHD based on a mg/m² comparison. In the rat study, an increased incidence of benign and malignant pheochromocytomas reported in the adrenal medulla of male rats was observed.

Adapalene was not mutagenic or genotoxic *in vitro* (Ames test, Chinese hamster ovary cell assay, or mouse lymphoma TK assay) or *in vivo* (mouse micronucleus test).

In rat oral studies, 20 mg/kg/day adapalene (32 times the MRHD based on a mg/m² comparison) did not affect the reproductive performance and fertility of F₀ males and females or the growth, development, or reproductive function of F₁ offspring.

14 CLINICAL STUDIES

The safety and efficacy of once daily use of DIFFERIN Gel for treatment of acne vulgaris were assessed in one 12 week, multi-center, controlled, clinical trial, conducted in a total of 653 subjects 12 to 52 years of age with acne vulgaris of mild to moderate severity. All female subjects of child-bearing potential enrolled in the trial were required to have a negative urine pregnancy test at the beginning of the trial and were required to practice a highly effective method of contraception during the trial. Female subjects who were pregnant, nursing or planning to become pregnant were excluded from the trial.

Subjects enrolled in the trial were Caucasian (72%), Hispanic (12%), African-American (10%), Asian (3%), and other (2%). An equal number of males (49.5%) and females (50.5%) enrolled. Success was defined as “Clear” or “Almost Clear” in the Investigator’s Global Assessment (IGA). The success rate, mean reduction, and percent reduction in acne lesion counts from Baseline after 12 weeks of treatment are presented in the following table:

Table 3: Clinical study primary efficacy results at Week 12

	DIFFERIN (adapalene) Gel, 0.3%	Adapalene Gel, 0.1%	Vehicle Gel
	N=258	N=261	N=134
IGA Success Rate	53 (21%)	41 (16%)	12 (9%)
Inflammatory Lesions			
Mean Baseline Count	27.7	28.1	27.2
Mean Absolute (%) Reduction	14.4 (51.6%)	13.9 (49.7%)	11.2 (40.7%)
Non-inflammatory Lesions			
Mean Baseline Count	39.4	41.0	40.0
Mean Absolute (%) Reduction	16.3 (39.7%)	15.2 (35.2%)	10.3 (27.2%)
Total Lesions			
Mean Baseline Count	67.1	69.1	67.2
Mean Absolute (%) Reduction	30.6 (45.3%)	29.0 (41.8%)	21.4 (33.7%)

16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

DIFFERIN Gel, 0.3% is supplied in the following size.

15 g tube – NDC 0299-5918-15

45 g tube – NDC 0299-5918-45

45 g pump – NDC 0299-5918-25

Storage: Store at controlled room temperature 68° to 77°F (20° to 25°C) with excursions permitted between 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C). Protect from freezing. Keep out of reach of children.

17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

Advise the patient to read the FDA-approved patient labeling (Patient Information)

Information for Patients

Patients using DIFFERIN Gel should receive the following information and instructions:

1. Apply a thin film of DIFFERIN Gel to the entire face and any other affected areas of the skin once daily in the evening. Apply a thin film of DIFFERIN Gel to the entire face and any other affected areas of the skin once daily in the evening, after washing gently with a non- medicated soap.
2. Avoid contact with the eyes, lips, angles of the nose, and mucous membranes
3. Moisturizers may be used if necessary; however, products containing alpha hydroxy or glycolic acids should be avoided.
4. This medication should not be applied to cuts, abrasions, eczematous, or sunburned skin.
5. Wax depilation should not be performed on treated skin due to the potential for skin erosions.
6. Minimize exposure to sunlight including sunlamps. Recommend the use of sunscreen products and protective apparel (e.g., hat) when exposure cannot be avoided.
7. Contact the doctor if skin rash, pruritus, hives, chest pain, edema, and shortness of breath occurs, as these may be signs of allergy or hypersensitivity.
8. This product is for external use only.
9. Lactation: Use DIFFERIN Gel on the smallest area of skin and for the shortest duration possible while breastfeeding. Avoid application of DIFFERIN Gel to areas with increased risk for potential ingestion by or ocular exposure to the breastfeeding child. [See *Use in Specific Populations, Lactation (8.2)*]

Patient Information
DIFFERIN® [Dif-er-in]
(adapalene)
Gel

Important: For use on the skin only (topical). Do not use DIFFERIN Gel in or on your mouth, eyes, or vagina.

Read this Patient Information that comes with DIFFERIN Gel before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your treatment or your medical condition. If you have any questions about DIFFERIN Gel talk with your doctor or pharmacist.

What is DIFFERIN Gel?

DIFFERIN Gel is a prescription medicine for skin use only (topical) used to treat acne vulgaris in people 12 years of age and older.

Acne vulgaris is a condition in which the skin has blackheads, whiteheads and pimples.

It is not known if DIFFERIN Gel is safe and effective in children younger than 12 years of age or in people 65 years of age and older.

Who should not use DIFFERIN Gel?

Do not use DIFFERIN Gel if you:

- are allergic to adapalene or any of the ingredients in DIFFERIN Gel. See the end of this Patient Information for a complete list of ingredients in DIFFERIN Gel.

What should I tell my doctor before using DIFFERIN Gel?

Before you use DIFFERIN Gel, tell your doctor if you:

- have other skin problems, including cuts or sunburn
- have any other medical conditions
- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if DIFFERIN Gel, can harm your unborn baby. Talk to your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if DIFFERIN Gel passes into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. Talk to your doctor about the best way to feed your baby if you use DIFFERIN Gel.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements.

Especially tell your doctor if you use any other medicine for acne. Using DIFFERIN Gel with topical medicines that contain sulfur, resorcinol or salicylic acid may cause skin irritation.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them to show your doctor and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I use DIFFERIN Gel?

- Use DIFFERIN Gel exactly as your doctor tells you to use it. DIFFERIN Gel is for skin use only. Do not use DIFFERIN Gel in or on your mouth, eyes, or vagina.
- Apply DIFFERIN Gel 1 time a day. Do not use more DIFFERIN Gel than you need to cover the treatment area. Using too much DIFFERIN Gel or using it more than 1 time a day may increase your chance of skin irritation.

Applying DIFFERIN Gel:

- Wash the area where DIFFERIN Gel will be applied with a soap that does not contain a medicine and pat dry.
- DIFFERIN Gel comes in a tube and a pump. If you have been prescribed the:
 - Tube: Squeeze a small amount onto your fingertips and spread a thin layer over the entire face and any other affected areas.
 - Pump: Depress the pump to dispense a small amount of DIFFERIN Gel and spread a thin layer over the entire face and any other affected area.

What should I avoid while using DIFFERIN Gel?

- You should avoid spending time in sunlight or artificial sunlight, such as tanning beds or sunlamps. DIFFERIN Gel can make your skin sensitive to sun and the light from tanning beds and sunlamps. You should wear sunscreen and wear hat and clothes that cover the areas treated with DIFFERIN Gel if you have to be in sunlight.
- You should avoid weather extremes such as wind and cold as this may cause irritation to your skin.
- You should avoid applying DIFFERIN Gel to cuts, abrasions and sunburned skin.
- You should avoid skin products that may dry or irritate your skin such as harsh soaps, astringents, cosmetics that have strong skin drying effects and products containing high levels of alcohol.
- You should avoid the use of “waxing” as a hair removal method on skin treated with DIFFERIN Gel.

What are the possible side effects of DIFFERIN Gel?

DIFFERIN Gel may cause serious side effects including:

- **Local skin reactions.** Local skin reactions are most likely to happen during the first 4 weeks of treatment and usually lessen with continued use of DIFFERIN Gel. Signs and symptoms of local skin reaction include:
 - Redness
 - Dryness
 - Scaling

- Stinging or burning
- **Allergic reactions.** DIFFERIN Gel may cause an allergic reaction that may require medical treatment. Stop using DIFFERIN Gel and tell your doctor right away if you have any of these symptoms of an allergic reaction:
 - skin rash, itching or hives
 - trouble breathing or chest pain
 - swelling of your face, eyes, lips, tongue or throat

You may use a moisturizer for relief of dry skin or irritation, however you should avoid products that contain alpha hydroxy or glycolic acid.

The most common side effects of DIFFERIN Gel are:

- skin pain
- skin peeling
- sunburn

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of DIFFERIN Gel. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

You may also report side effects to GALDERMA LABORATORIES, L.P. at 1-866-735-4137.

How should I store DIFFERIN Gel?

- Store DIFFERIN Gel, 0.3% at room temperature between 68° F to 77° F (20° C to 25° C).
- Do not freeze DIFFERIN Gel.

Keep DIFFERIN Gel and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about DIFFERIN Gel

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. Do not use DIFFERIN Gel for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give DIFFERIN Gel to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This Patient Information leaflet summarizes the most important information about DIFFERIN Gel. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can also ask your doctor or pharmacist for information about DIFFERIN Gel that is written for health professionals.

What are the ingredients in DIFFERIN Gel?

Active ingredient: adapalene

Inactive ingredients: carbomer 940, edetate disodium, methylparaben, poloxamer 124, propylene glycol, purified water and sodium hydroxide. May contain hydrochloric acid for pH adjustment.

This Patient Information has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Marketed by:

GALDERMA LABORATORIES, L.P., Fort Worth, Texas 76177 USA

Manufactured by:

G Production Inc., Baie d'Urfé, QC, H9X 3S4 Canada

Made in Canada.

GALDERMA is a registered trademark.

P52321-0-X

Issued: 08/2022