

Hydroquinone Cream

Active Ingredient

Hydroquinone

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet contains some information about your medication. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist. All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking this medication against the positive benefits they expect it will have for you. **If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, please contact us again or speak with your doctor or pharmacist for more information.** Keep this leaflet with the medicine as you may need to read it again in the future.

What it is used for

This medication contains the active ingredient Hydroquinone. Hydroquinone is used to lighten areas of darkened skin, such as freckles, age spots and acne scars. It does this by preventing the skin from producing melanin. Melanin is what gives the skin colour and pigmentation.

Before you use Hydroquinone

When you must NOT use it:

- If you are allergic to the active ingredient
- If the medication is expired or has not been stored correctly
- If you are using peroxide-containing products such as benzoyl peroxide or hydrogen peroxide, as temporary dark staining of the skin may occur when combined with hydroquinone.

Let us know if you are:

- Pregnant, planning on becoming pregnant, or breastfeeding
- Suffer from any other medical conditions or take any other medications, especially those containing peroxide.

How to use Hydroquinone

How much to use

Please use this medication as directed by your doctor or pharmacist. Refer to the directions on the product label if required. Apply just enough cream to cover the

affected areas. Improvements should start to be seen within 4 weeks of starting treatment.

How to use it

1. Test a small amount on an area of hyperpigmented skin. If no redness or itching occurs within 24 hours, begin treatment.
2. Clean and dry the area before applying a thin film of cream twice daily, or as directed.
3. Rub into the skin well.
4. This will lighten all areas it is applied. Hence, wash your hands after applying unless these are areas of treatment.

For best results, use protective clothing and SPF15+ sunscreen when outdoors. Do not apply near the eyes, mouth, or other mucous membranes.

If using other non-medicated cosmetics, sunscreen, or lotions, apply hydroquinone first then wait several minutes before applying them over the top.

How to report side effects

If you experience any adverse experiences from this medication, you should report it via:

- Visiting www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems
- Call Adverse Medicine Events Line on 1300 134 237

If it is an EMERGENCY call the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 or call 000.

Side effects

Please let us or your doctor know as soon as possible if you do not feel well while taking this medication.

Some people may experience minor temporary side effects. If these do not resolve, stop using the cream:

- Mild itching, stinging, or reddening of the skin

Rare side effects which mean you should stop treatment and contact your doctor immediately include:

- Severe burning, itching, or swelling of the area
- Crusting or unusual skin discolouration

Storage

Expires 6 months after preparation. **Store your medication in the fridge between 2°C to 8°C.** Do not freeze.

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