

Permethrin 5% topical

Approved products:

DIN	Brand Name	Company
02231348	Kwellada-P Lotion	MedTech Products Inc
02219905	Nix Dermal Cream	GlaxoSmithKline

Indication: Treatment of scabies. (NB: scabies is not a self-limiting condition. It will not resolve without treatment.)

Alternative to manufacturers' products: UPDATE Feb 11, 2014: compounding pharmacy suppliers can no longer order permethrin (shorted). Permethrin cream or lotion can be compounded from pharmaceutical grade permethrin (99 % permethrin - viscous liquid or semi-solid). [Compounding pharmacies can order the bulk product from their supplier(s) in the United States. This compound will be covered by the Saskatchewan Drug Plan while commercial product is shorted.

Therapeutic alternatives:

- NB: 1% permethrin topical cream rinse is **NOT** effective for scabies treatment
- Approved products in Canada are inferior to permethrin 5% for scabies.
- **UPDATE Feb 11, 2014 - now shorted:** Crotamiton 10% cream (Eurax®) – Apply to entire surface from neck to toes and repeat in 24 hr. Wash off 48 hr after last application.
- Sulfur 5 – 10% in petrolatum – Apply once daily after a bath and leave on for 24 hours for five to seven days. This compound will not be covered by the Saskatchewan Drug Plan. Evidence is weak, but found to be better than placebo.
- Ivermectin (200 mcg/kg orally as a single dose with a repeat dose two weeks later) is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as an equivalent option to topical permethrin but is only available through the Special Access Programme in Canada and will only be considered on a case-by-case basis for 'life-threatening' cases. (In the case of an outbreak in a community, an application is required for each patient.)
- Lindane 1% lotion (lindane discontinued in all forms in Canada)
- Malathion 0.5% aqueous lotion (second line in United Kingdom) – no commercial product available in Canada. (NB - the American formulation of malathion lotion is not appropriate for scabies because the high alcohol content would cause too much irritation to already inflamed tissues)

Symptomatic treatment:

As noted above, scabies is not self-limiting so patients may experience prolonged symptoms until proper treatment is available. Treatment of pruritus may be required:

- Emollients/moisturizers
- Medium potency topical corticosteroids
- Antipruritic topical lotions
- Cool, wet compresses x 20 minutes can be applied to acute localized itch
- Sedating antihistamines to reduce pruritus during sleep

***Grayed out text indicates information that is no longer relevant due to shortages or other obstacles.**

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