USER GUIDE

CALCIUM GLUCONATE GEL

Composition

Contains Calcium Gluconate B.P. 2.5% in a propylene glycol based gel with Methyl Hydroxybenzoate B.P. 0.2%.

Actions

Provides a source of calcium ions to replace those precipitated or immobilised by the fluoride ion following a hydrofluoric acid burn. This prevents further damage to tissue or bone and allows healing.

Indications

For treatment of the tissue destruction, decalcification of bone and accompanying severe pain resulting from the penetration of the skin and underlying tissues with hydrogen fluoride following hydrofluoric acid burns.

Contraindications

The use of local anaesthetics in the affected area is contraindicated since treatment with the gel should continue until the hydrogen fluoride has been completely neutralised, and this is indicated by the subsidence of pain. In areas where the skin is tightly adherent to the underlying tissues, for example the finger pads or subungual finger or toe burns, and where splitting or removal of affected nails may be required, a general anaesthetic should be given (1).

Directions for Use

Seek urgent medical advice. Take patient to nearest hospital.

Treatment of a hydrofluoric acid burn should be initiated as soon as possible. The burn may not become evident immediately, since there is a gradual precipitation of intracellular calcium (1), but if treatment is not initiated, the hydrogen fluoride continues to diffuse through the skin and damages underlying tissues.

The first line of treatment should be to remove contaminated clothing and flush the affected area thoroughly with water, for at least 15 minutes, to remove residual hydrofluoric acid. Calcium Gluconate Gel should then be applied immediately (1, 2).

Apply the gel repeatedly to the area and massage into tissues until 15 minutes after the pain has completely subsided. A thick necrotic coagulum may form and this may act as a barrier to prevent the penetration of the gel into underlying tissues. In this case, the necrotic tissue should be excised and the gel should be massaged into the bone and underlying tissues using aseptic procedures (1, 2).

Once pain has subsided, the burn should be covered with gel and a sterile dressing. Pain may recur later, especially following burns with dilute hydrofluoric acid and in this case, treatment should be symptomatic (1)

Storage

Store below 25^{o}C.

Poison Schedule

Not Scheduled.

Presentation

Code	Product	Size	Carton
CAL01466F	CALCIUM GLUCONATE GEL 2.5% (Tube)	50g	20

References

1. Brown, T.D. 1974. The treatment of Hydrofluoric Acid Burns. The Journal of the Society of Occupational Medicine, 14, 80 -89.

2. Hydrofluoric Acid – Guidelines for safer handling and storage. Guidance Note WorkSafe Victoria 06/06/2005 http://www.workcover.vic.gov.au/vwa/alerts.nsf/docsbyUNID/8A35CD0A0577441ACA256FDC00803854?Open

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Revision Information:

Date	Document	Superseded Document	Revision Information
September 2006	CAL001466_3 September 2006	CAL01466_2 June 2006	New reference(#2)
September 2009	CAL001466_04 September 2009	CAL001466_3 September 2006	General review

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