



Summary of Product Characteristics

Advantan*

Methylprednisoloneaceponate

0.1% Cream

* This medicinal product is registered / marketed under the following trade names:
Advantan, Adventan, Avancort or Lexxema.

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Advantan 0.1% cream

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION IN TERMS OF THE ACTIVE SUBSTANCE(S)

1 g Advantan cream contains 1 mg methylprednisolone aceponate (0.1 %)

For a full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Cream (white to yellowish opaque cream)

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Indications

Acute inflammatory skin diseases in adults and children above 4 months of age: endogenous eczema (atopic dermatitis, neurodermitis), contact eczema, degenerative eczema, dyshidrotic eczema, eczema in children.

4.2 Dosage and method of administration

Medicinal product is applied thinly once per day to the diseased areas of skin. Duration of Advantan cream use should not exceed 12 weeks in adults.

Pediatric population

Advantan is administered in children above 4 months of age. Dose adjustments are not required. The duration of use should be minimal and should not exceed 4 weeks.

4.3 Contraindications

Tuberculous or syphilitic processes in the area to be treated; viral diseases (e.g. varicella, herpes zoster), rosacea, perioral dermatitis, ulcers, acne vulgaris, atrophic skin diseases and postvaccination skin reactions in the area to be treated. Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Additional, specific therapy is required in bacterially infected skin diseases and/or in fungal infections.

If the skin dries out excessively under protracted use of Advantan cream, a switch should be made to one of the formulations with a higher fat content (Advantan ointment or Advantan fatty ointment).

Care must be taken when using Advantan cream to avoid contact with the eyes, deep open wounds and mucosae.

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After application of Advantan to 60% skin surface area under occlusive conditions for 22 hours, suppression of plasma cortisol levels and influence on circadian rhythm was observed in adult healthy volunteers.

Extensive application of topical corticosteroid to large areas of the body or for prolonged periods of time, in particular under occlusion, significantly increases the risk of systemic side effects. Note that diapers can be occlusive.

As known from systemic corticosteroids, glaucoma may also develop from using local corticosteroids (e.g. after large-dose or extensive application over a prolonged period, occlusive dressing techniques, or application to the skin around the eyes).

Two excipients contained in Advantan 0.1% cream (cetostearyl alcohol and butyl hydroxytoluene) may cause local skin reactions (e.g., contact dermatitis). Butyl hydroxytoluene may also cause irritation in the eyes and mucous membranes.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

None so far known.

4.6 Pregnancy and lactation

4.6.1 Pregnancy

There are no adequate data from the use of Advantan cream in pregnant women.

Animal experimental studies with methylprednisolone aceponate have shown embryotoxic and/or teratogenic effects (see section "5.3 Preclinical safety data"). In general, the use of topical preparations containing corticosteroids should be avoided during the first trimester of pregnancy. In particular, treating large areas, prolonged use or occlusive dressings should be avoided during pregnancy.

Epidemiological studies suggest that there could possibly be an increased risk of oral clefts among newborns of women who were treated with glucocorticosteroids during the first trimester of pregnancy.

The clinical indication for treatment with Advantan cream must be carefully reviewed and the benefits weighed against the risks in pregnant women.

4.6.2 Lactation

In rats methylprednisolone aceponate showed practically no transfer to the neonates via the milk. But it is not known if methylprednisolone aceponate is secreted in human milk as systemically administered corticosteroids have been reported to appear in human milk. It is not known whether topical administration of Advantan cream could result in sufficient systemic absorption of methylprednisolone aceponate to produce detectable quantities in human milk. Therefore cautions should be exercised when Advantan cream is administered to a nursing woman.

Nursing mothers should not be treated on the breasts. Treating large areas, prolonged use or occlusive dressings should be avoided during lactation.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive or use machines

Advantan cream has no influence on the ability to drive and use machines.

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4.8 Undesirable effects

In clinical studies, most frequently observed side-effects included application site burning and application site pruritus with Advantan cream.

Frequencies of side-effects observed in clinical studies and given in the table below are defined according to the MedDRA frequency convention: very common (>1/10); common (>1/100, <1/10); uncommon (>1/1,000; <1/100); rare (>1/10,000; <1/1,000); very rare (<1/10,000), not known (cannot be estimated from the available data). MedDRA version 12.0 was used for coding.

System organ class	common	uncommon	rare
General disorders and administration site reaction	application site burning, application site pruritus	application site dryness, application site erythema, application site vesicles, application site folliculitis, application site rash, application	application site cellulitis, application site edema, application site irritation
Immune system disorders		drug hypersensitivity	
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders			pyoderma, skin fissures, telangiectasia, skin atrophy, fungal skin infection, acne

As with other corticoids for topical application, the following local side effects may occur: skin atrophy, skin striae, application site folliculitis, hypertrichosis, telangiectasia, perioral dermatitis, skin discoloration, and allergic skin reactions to any of the ingredients of the formulations. Systemic effects due to absorption may occur when topical preparations containing corticoids are applied.

4.9 Overdose

Results from acute toxicity studies do not indicate that any risk of acute intoxication is to be expected following a single dermal application of an overdose (application over a large area under conditions favorable to absorption) or an inadvertent oral ingestion.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: corticosteroids, potent (group IB) ATC code: D07AC14.

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After topical application, Advantan cream suppresses inflammatory reactions as well as reactions associated with hyperproliferation, leading to regression of the objective symptoms (erythema, edema, weeping) and the subjective complaints (itching, smarting, pain).

It is known that methylprednisolone aceponate itself binds to the glucocorticoid receptor and this is especially true for the principal metabolite 6α -methylprednisolone-17-propionate, which is formed after cleavage of the ester in the skin. The steroid receptor complex binds to certain regions of DNA, thereby triggering a series of biological effects.

Binding of the steroid receptor complex results in induction of macrocortin synthesis. Macrocortin inhibits the release of arachidonic acid and thus the formation of inflammatory mediators such as prostaglandins and leukotrienes. The immunosuppressive action of glucocorticoids can be explained by inhibition of cytokine synthesis and an antimitotic effect, which so far is not well understood. Inhibition of the synthesis of vasoconstrictive prostaglandins or potentiation of the vasoconstrictive effect of adrenaline finally results in the vasoconstrictive activity of glucocorticosteroids.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Methylprednisolone aceponate becomes available from the formulation base. The concentration in the stratum corneum and living skin decreases from the outside to the inside. Methylprednisolone aceponate is hydrolyzed in the epidermis and dermis to the main metabolite 6α -methylprednisolone-17-propionate which binds more firmly to the corticoid receptor than the parent drug, an indication of a bioactivation in the skin.

The rate and extent of percutaneous absorption of a topical corticoid depends on a series of factors: chemical structure of the compound, the composition of the vehicle, the concentration of the compound in the vehicle, the conditions of exposure (area treated, duration of exposure, open or occlusion) and the skin status (kind and severity of skin disease, anatomical site etc.).

Percutaneous absorption of methylprednisolone aceponate from the cream formulations has been investigated in healthy volunteers. The respective figures after open application of the Advantan cream (2 x 20 g daily) for 8 days were 0.65 % (absorption) or 4 μ g/kg/day (load). The percutaneous absorption of methylprednisolone aceponate through skin pre-damaged by removal of the stratum corneum resulted in distinctly higher absorption (13-27 % of the dose).

After reaching the systemic circulation, the primary hydrolysis product of methylprednisolone aceponate, 6α -methylprednisolone-17-propionate is quickly conjugated with glucuronic acid and as a result, inactivated. The metabolites of methylprednisolone aceponate (main metabolite: 6α -methylprednisolone-17-propionate-21-glucuronide) are eliminated primarily via the kidneys with a half-life of about 16 hours. Following i.v. administration, excretion with the urine and feces was complete within 7 days. No accumulation of drug substance or metabolites takes place in the body.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

In systemic tolerance studies following repeated subcutaneous and dermal administration methylprednisolone aceponate showed the action profile of a typical glucocorticoid. It can be concluded from these results that following therapeutic use of Advantan cream no side-effects other than those typical of glucocorticoids are to be expected even under extreme conditions such as application over a large surface and/or occlusion.

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Embryotoxicity studies with Advantan cream led to results typical for glucocorticoids, i.e. embryolethal and/or teratogenic effects are induced in the appropriate test system. In view of these findings, particular care should be taken when prescribing Advantan cream during pregnancy.

Neither in vitro investigations for detection of gene mutations on bacteria and mammalian cells nor in vitro and in vivo investigations for detection of chromosome and gene mutations gave any indication of a genotoxic potential of methylprednisolone aceponate. Specific tumorigenicity studies using methylprednisolone aceponate have not been carried out. Knowledge concerning the structure, the pharmacological effect mechanism and the results from systemic tolerance studies with long-term administration do not indicate any increase in the risk of tumor occurrence. As systemically effective immunosuppressive exposure is not reached with dermal application of Advantan cream under the recommended conditions of use, no influence on the occurrence of tumors is to be expected.

In investigations of the local tolerance of methylprednisolone aceponate and Advantan formulations on the skin and the mucosa no findings other than the topical side-effects known for glucocorticoids were recorded.

Methylprednisolone aceponate showed no sensitizing potential on the skin of the guinea-pig.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Decyl oleate

Glycerol monostearate 40 - 55 %

Cetostearyl alcohol

Hard fat

Caprylic-capric-myristic-stearic triglyceride (Softisan 378)

Macrogol stearate 40

Glycerol (85 %)

Disodium edetate

Benzyl alcohol

Butyl hydroxytoluene

Water, purified

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable

6.3 Shelflife

3 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Do not store above 25 °C. Keep out of reach of children.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Tubes made of pure aluminium, interior wall coated with epoxy resin, and with polyester-based external coating; end seal band. The screw cap is made of high density polyethylene.

Presentation: 15-g.

6.6 Instructions for use/ handling

No special requirements

7. MAH NAME AND ADDRESS

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