

Flammacerium Cream in Burn Wound Care

Health Care Professional Information Leaflet

If the patient has attended the Burn Service and has been recommended treatment with Flammacerium, this leaflet will answer some of the most commonly asked questions.

Flammacerium treatment should only be started by recommendation of the local Burn Service.

**St Andrews Burns Service
Broomfield Hospital (Chelmsford)**
Adults/Children 01245 516037

Chelsea & Westminster Hospital (London)
Adults 02033152500
Children 02033153706

Queen Victoria Hospital (East Grinstead)
Adults 01342 414440
Children 01342 414469

Stoke Mandeville Hospital (Aylesbury)
Adults/Children 01296 315040

The Royal London Hospital (London)
Adults 0203 594 6643/6035/6034
(Mon 13:30-16:00/Thur 9:30-13:00)
BHNT.Plasticsurgery@nhs.net

What is Flammacerium Cream?

Flammacerium is a sterile, hydrophilic, antibacterial, topical, white to off-white cream, containing silver sulfadiazine and cerium nitrate hexahydrate as the active ingredients. Flammacerium is registered and marketed in several western European countries. It is not currently licensed in the United Kingdom, but is commonly used on a 'named patient only' basis in the UK by specialist burns services. It is soothing when applied and has proven activity against a broad range of both gram-positive and gram-negative species, and some yeasts.

Mode of Action

Cerium nitrate in Flammacerium enhances the well-known antibacterial properties of silver sulfadiazine, which kills and blocks the growth of the bacteria, and promotes the rapid formation of an eschar. Cerium nitrate in Flammacerium hardens the burn eschar (slough), effectively isolating the potential focus of necrosis, thus reducing the possibilities of bacterial colonization and improving the burn wound healing environment. As a result, the burn eschar transforms into a leather-like, firm, and protective greenish-yellow crust that does not dislodge spontaneously until the skin underneath has re-epithelialized.

How to use Flammacerium Cream?

Flammacerium is used for treatment of deep dermal or full thickness burns and is applied directly to the burn wound or onto a sterile non-adherent dressing every 24-72 hours, as part of the specialist wound care treatment. To produce a therapeutic effect, the cream must be applied at intervals of 72 hours or less to a depth of about 2-3 mm. Flammacerium should be re-applied after thorough removal of the old cream residue.

A patient who changes their own dressings may do this themselves.

Will patient be able to have a bath or shower?

For patients who are able to change their own dressings at home, the recommendation is to remove the dressings and irrigate the wound using a shower before re-applying Flammacerium and any secondary dressings. Patients are encouraged to use a mild non-perfumed soap or shower gel when showering.

Duration of treatment

With the use of Flammacerium the slough should harden in the wound over the first 14 days. If the wound shows signs of infection or appears not to be healing within this period, discuss the need for another specialist review with the local Burns Service. For this reason, Flammacerium should not be used for more than 14 days without a specialist review.

Does it hurt?

Application is usually soothing and painless. However, some patients may experience a temporary discomfort or stinging upon application. If this effect continues for over 10 minutes post application, Flammacerium should be fully removed and an alternative treatment discussed with the local Burn Service.

Contraindications

Flammacerium is contra-indicated if the patient is known to be hypersensitive to silver sulfadiazine, cerium nitrate or to the other ingredients.

Flammacerium should not be used in the third trimester of pregnancy, for preterm infants and neonates due to the risk of kernicterus (a complication of neonatal jaundice). Please, discuss treatment options with the local Burns Service.

Use of the Flammacerium on faces, hands and genital area is not advised due to expected hardening of the burn eschar. In case of contact with eyes, careful washing with water is recommended.

Caution

Caution is required in patients with a known sensitivity to systemic sulfonamides and in those individuals known to have glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency (G6PD). Close monitoring of these patients is required because of possible haemolysis.

Flammacerium should be used with caution in patients with oliguria, severe renal or hepatic impairment, and in slow acetylators.

Prolonged use or treatment of extensive areas can result in systemic absorption.

Use in pregnancy

Sulfonamides readily cross the placenta to the foetus during all stages of gestation. Due to the risk of kernicterus (a complication of neonatal jaundice), Flammacerium is contraindicated in the third trimester of pregnancy. The product should only be used during the other stages of pregnancy if the benefit outweighs the risk.

Breast-feeding

Sulfonamides are excreted in the breast milk in small amounts and should be used with caution in nursing mothers, especially in infants with jaundice and hyperbilirubinemia due to the risk of kernicterus and in infants with G6PD deficiency due to the risk of haemolytic anaemia.

Interactions

Sulfadiazine is an inhibitor of CYP2C9 and may cause drug interactions with CYP2C9 substrates.

Flammacerium should be avoided 3 days before and 3 days after receiving oral live attenuated typhoid vaccination.

Avoid concurrent use with enzymatic debriding agents as silver may inactivate them.

Possible side effects

Like all medication, Flammacerium can cause side effects, although not everyone gets them. The following side effects may occur with this medication:

- Severe cutaneous adverse reactions such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN).
- Skin reactions (eg burning sensation) or pain. Patients should be advised that cetyl alcohol or propylene glycol in the cream base may cause local skin irritation.
- Leukopenia (an effect on the white blood cell count), which is reversible.

Allergic Reactions

Allergic reactions to Flammacerium Cream may occur.

Sun Safety

Sunlight may turn Flammacerium Cream grey. It is therefore recommended that patients refrain from sunbathing while using Flammacerium and protect against intense sunlight those parts of the body which have been treated with Flammacerium.

Overdose

Overdose symptoms are related to systemic sulfadiazine and silver effects.

Symptoms observed through chronic ingestion include neurological, renal, hepatic, respiratory, gastro-intestinal and haematological disturbances.

Management of overdose is performed by discontinuation of the drug and symptomatic treatment of overdose symptoms. If necessary, carry out monitoring of renal function and blood count. Absorbed sulfadiazine is amenable to both haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis.

How to store Flammacerium Cream

- Keep out of the reach and sight of children.
- Store in the original container.
- Store at temperatures below 30°C in a cool, dark place. Do not freeze.
- Protect from sunlight. Under the influence of sunlight, a greyish discoloration of the cream may occur.
- Tubes/pots are for single patient use only.
- Used Flammacerium Cream tubs must be discarded 30 days after opening.
- Do not use after expiry date stated on the package.

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Patients should be directed to the local pharmacist for advice on how to dispose of medicines that are no longer required. These measures will help protect the environment.

Further Support

If you have any questions or would like to talk about anything related to patient's treatment, please contact your local Burn Service team.

Burns Outreach

Burns outreach provides specialist burn care for patients who are unable to access services on-site at the local burns service. A treatment plan is agreed between the patient, the burns team and the patient's local nurses and GP. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding advocated treatment, please contact the burns outreach nurse at your local Burns Service.

Queen Victoria Hospital - East Grinstead

Claire Hayward - Burns Outreach Sister

E: claire.hayward@qvh.nhs.uk

Tel: 07917 589159

Chelsea & Westminster Hospital - London

Annette Kempster - Burns Outreach Sister

E: annette.kempster@chelwest.nhs.uk

T: 07890 525163

Stoke Mandeville Hospital - Aylesbury

Amanda Loft - Burns Outreach Nurse

E: amanda.loft@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk

T: 07824 509551

St Andrews Burns Service - Chelmsford

Tara Hanmer

E: tara.hanmer@meht.nhs.uk

Jennifer Nichols

E: jennifer.nichols@meht.nhs.uk

Alison Wright

E: alison.wright@meht.nhs.uk

Sandy Gilbert

E: sandy.gilbert@meht.nhs.uk

Emma Drury

E: emma.drury@meht.nhs.uk

Karen Heath

E: karen.heath@meht.nhs.uk

T: 01245 516008

Burn Care Advisor

Burn Care Advisors provide professional training and education to all pre-hospital, primary and secondary services within the catchment area of the LSEBN, in relation to the initial management and referral of patients with a burn injury. Contact your local Burn Care Advisor to request burns training, support, advice or referral feedback.

Queen Victoria Hospital - East Grinstead

Burns Unit - 01342 414440

Laura McAulay - 07770 620818

laura.mcaulay@nhs.net

Chelsea & Westminster Hospital - London

Burns Unit - 020 3315 2512

Katherine Elworthy

Katherine.Elworthy@chelwest.nhs.uk

Stoke Mandeville Hospital - Aylesbury

Burns Unit - 01296 315 040

Suzie Whiting - 07768 038 923

suzanne.whiting@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk

St Andrews Burns Service - Chelmsford

Burns Unit - 01245 516037

Burn Care Advisors - 01245 516008

Tara Hanmer

tara.hanmer@meht.nhs.uk

Jennifer Nichols

jennifer.nichols@meht.nhs.uk