

## MEDICATION: IVERMECTIN

**Ivermectin is an anti-parasite medicine used to treat parasite infections, such as scabies.**

**Q What can I expect after treatment with ivermectin?**

**A** It is common for the itching to stay the same, or even get a bit worse after you have the treatment. This may stay for up to 2 weeks and does not mean that the treatment is not working.

**Q What are the side effects of the tablets?**

**A** All medication can have side effects. The most common reaction to taking scabies treatment is that the scabies itch can get worse. This is because the mites are dying. It does not mean that the treatment isn't working.

Side effects of ivermectin tablets include joint pains, headaches, nausea, vomiting, or reduced appetite (not feeling like eating). It is also possible that you might feel tired or dizzy, or experience pain or discomfort in your stomach, but this is very rare.

**Q I am trying to have a baby. I'm not pregnant now, but what happens if I get pregnant next week?**

**A** It is safe to take ivermectin tablets if you are trying to have a baby and are not pregnant at the time of taking it.

**Q What dose of ivermectin will I be taking?**

**A** This will depend on your weight. The team will carry scales with them so we will know exactly what dose will be effective for each person. For more information see table opposite.

**Q Do the tablets fix skin sores, or just scabies?**

**A** While ivermectin is not usually used to treat skin sores (impetigo), studies have shown that it can help with skin sores. We may recommend a dose of antibiotic needle if your child has skin sores.

**Q Will I have to take more tablets?**

**A** Weight-based dosing of ivermectin will be given to everyone who is eligible to take it. People who have scabies and their household members will be advised to take another dose one week later to treat scabies.

**Q Do the tablets kill headlice?**

**A** Ivermectin is not usually used for headlice in Australia but there is some evidence that shows that ivermectin can help to kill headlice. If you or your child is suffering from headlice please see a healthcare provider.

**Q Isn't this a treatment used for animals?**

**A** Yes, this medication is sometimes used to treat diseases in animals. It has also been used for many years in people to treat many different conditions. The treatment you will receive is made for people, not for animals.

**Q What do I do if I experience a side effect to this medication?**

**A** If you experience any severe skin reaction with painful swelling, redness, blisters or peeling of your skin, lips, eyes, mouth, nose or genitals, you should go straight to your local health service provider. If you develop a new rash (like hives), swelling of the eyes or lips, or difficulty breathing, you should go to the hospital.

Body weight	Dose
15–24 kg	⊗
25–35 kg	⊗⊗
36–50 kg	⊗⊗⊗
51–65 kg	⊗⊗⊗⊗
66–79 kg	⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗
80–95 kg	⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗
96–109 kg	⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗
110–125 kg	⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗
126–139 kg	⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗
140–150 kg	⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗⊗

## MEDICATION: LYCLEAR®

### Q How do I use Lyclear® cream?

**A** If you are an adult or if a child is over 6 months of age, you should apply the cream before you go to bed:

- Put on to clean, dry skin
- Start with head including scalp and face — avoid eyes, lips, mouth
- Work carefully down whole body.

#### Always apply cream:

- Between fingers and toes, soles of feet, under nails
- Body creases — behind ears, under jaw, neck, armpits, groin, bottom, under breasts
- Joints and joint creases — elbows, knees and heels

Skin creams should be left on for at least 8 hours before being washed off.

If you wash your hands in this time, make sure you put on more cream before you go back to bed.

A second treatment should be applied 7-10 days later to kill any scabies mite eggs, which have hatched since the first treatment.

If children are under 6 months, the cream should be applied the same way but spread over the whole body including the scalp and face. Cream should not be applied to the eyes or inside the nose or mouth.

### Q What can I expect after treatment?

**A** It is common for the itching to stay the same, or even get a bit worse after you have the treatment. This may stay for up to 2 weeks and does not mean that the treatment is not working.

### Q What side effects can this treatment (Lyclear®) have?

**A** The most common reaction is that the scabies itch can get worse. This is because the mites are dying. It does not mean that the treatment isn't working.

Some people may experience a stinging, tingling or burning feeling of the skin or their skin may become red, but this is very rare.

### Q What do I do if I experience a side effect to the cream?

**A** As with all medications, there is a risk of an allergic reaction. If you develop a severe rash, or if you develop swelling around your eyes or lips or experience any difficulty breathing, go to the emergency department.

### Q If I put the cream on before I go to bed, but wash my hands later in the night, do I need to put more cream on?

**A** Yes, it is recommended that you apply cream all over your body and wash off with warm, soapy water 8-14 hours later. Reapply cream over any area of your body that was washed off before 8 hours.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Darling Downs Health Public Health Unit on 07 4699 8240.



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