

Germisol[®] Hand Rub

Chlorhexidine Gluconate 0.5% w/v

Composition: Chlorhexidine Gluconate 0.5% w/v (equivalent to 2.5% v/v Chlorhexidine Gluconate solution BP) in 70% v/v Isopropyl Alcohol BP

Uses: For the disinfection of clean and intact skin. For pre-operative surgical hand disinfection, hand disinfection on the ward prior to aseptic procedures or after handling contaminated materials. For disinfection of the patients' skin prior to surgery or other invasive procedures.

Mechanism of action: The effect of Chlorhexidine is a result of the binding of this cationic molecule to negatively charged bacterial cell walls and extramicrobial complexes. This causes an alteration of bacterial cell osmotic equilibrium and leakage of potassium and phosphorous resulting in a bacteriostatic effect. At high concentrations of Chlorhexidine, the cytoplasmic contents of the bacterial cell precipitate and result in cell death.

Dosage & Administration: For external use only.

Adults:

Pre-operative surgical hand disinfection: Dispense 5 ml of solution and spread thoroughly over both hands and forearms, rubbing vigorously. When dry apply a further 5 ml and repeat the procedure.

Antiseptic hand disinfection on the ward: Dispense 3 ml of solution and spread thoroughly over the hands and wrists rubbing vigorously until dry.

Disinfection of patients' skin: Prior to surgery apply the solution to a sterile swab and rub vigorously over the operation site for a minimum of 2 minutes. Chlorhexidine Gluconate is also used for preparation of the skin prior to invasive procedures such as venepuncture.

Elderly and children:

There are no special dosing regimes for children and the elderly.

Contraindication & Precaution:

Chlorhexidine Gluconate is contraindicated for persons who have previously shown a hypersensitivity to Chlorhexidine. However, such reactions are extremely rare. Avoid contact with the brain, meninges or middle ear. Not for injection. Do not use in body cavities. The solution is irritant to the eyes and mucous membranes. Keep out of eyes. If chlorhexidine solutions come into contact with the eyes, wash out promptly and thoroughly with water. Due to alcohol content the preparation is flammable. When use is to be followed by diathermy do not allow pooling of the fluid to occur, and ensure that the skin and surrounding drapes are dry. Prolonged skin contact with alcoholic solutions should be avoided, allow drying before proceeding.

Side Effect: Irritative skin reactions can occasionally occur. Generalised allergic reactions have also been reported but are extremely rare.

Drug Interaction: Chlorhexidine is incompatible with soaps and other anionic agents. Hypochlorite bleaches may cause brown stains to develop in fabrics which have previously been in contact with chlorhexidine solutions.

Use in Pregnancy & Lactation: No untoward Effects are known.

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