

Guidance: Potassium Permanganate Solution

The potassium permanganate solution may be used as wet soaks to blistering wounds such as ulcers and abscesses.

● Wet Legs ● Infected Leg Ulcers ● Eczema

Indications

- Infected eczema
- Fungal infections
- Blistering skin conditions
- Wet and leaking legs, including leg abscesses

Caution: Risk of death or serious harm from accidental ingestion.

Accidental ingestion should be treated as a medical emergency

Side Effects

- Can cause **irritation** to mucous membranes (e.g. mouth, nose, ears, genitals, anus)
- Can **stain** clothing, skin and nails
- Skin **dryness**
- Can **burn skin** if solution applied beyond recommended duration of **15 minutes**

Prescription Considerations

- **Drug Name:** Potassium Permanganate 400 milligrams (mg) tablets
- **Dose:** Once per day
- **Frequency:** Once per day
- **Duration:** 10 days max
- **Route:** Topical application to affected limb(s)
- **Additional Info:** Dilute 1 tablet in 4 litres of water. Dilution of 1:10,000

Prescribe **Dermol 500** as a soap substitute for cleansing post application

Step by Step to the Application Method

Caution: Don apron and gloves and avoid spillage as the potassium permanganate solution stains

1. The solution should be prepared in a **disposable wash bowel**
2. Dissolve **1 tablet in 4 litres** of warm, not hot, tap water
3. Position the patient on the bed covered with a **blue incontinence sheet**
4. **Vaseline®/Soft paraffin** should be applied to the nails on the feet to prevent staining
5. **Soak gauze in the** potassium permanganate **solution**
6. Gently wring out the gauze and **apply topically to all the areas** requiring treatment
7. Leave in place for **maximum 15 minutes**
8. **Remove the gauze** swabs from the skin
9. **Cleanse** the limb with fresh water to remove the solution
Dermol 500 should be used as a soap substitute to aid removal of the solution and reduce skin irritation post treatment
10. **Inspect the skin** for signs of irritation or reaction to the product
11. Dress legs if required

Medical Review

- Discontinue treatment when **legs become dry**
- Or, discontinue treatment when **10 days** of treatment is reached

For further advice please contact the Tissue Viability Team via email at bsuh.woundcare@nhs.net