



DIMETHYLSULFOXIDE (DMSO) - ADULTS

You have been prescribed this medication to reduce potential damage caused by a chemotherapy leak out of your vein and onto your skin. This is known as an extravasation.

DIRECTIONS FOR DMSO

Apply _____ times daily (every _____ hours) for _____ days.

After you have applied your dry, cold compress:

1. Thoroughly and gently blot your skin to dry it.
2. Put on surgical type gloves
3. Apply _____ DMSO drops.
4. Spread the DMSO on twice the affected surface area using a cotton-tipped applicator with a wooden stem.
5. Air dry (do not bandage).

STORAGE

Keep out of the reach of children.

Store the DMSO at room temperature in its glass container.

NOTE

DMSO can damage plastic and synthetic fabrics.

For external use only.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS

- Local irritation
- Dry or peeling skin
- Itching
- Tingling
- Redness
- Feeling of warmth at application site
- Garlic-like taste and breath
- Headache
- Nausea
- Drowsiness/somnolence
- Dizziness

WHEN TO CONSULT

Contact the nurse at the chemotherapy centre **as soon as possible** if you notice:

- Onset of or increasing pain
- Onset of or increasing redness
- Onset of itching
- Presence of a skin lesion (blister). In this case, suspend the application of DMSO
- Skin breakdown
- Presence of discharge
- Swelling
- Difficulty moving the hand, wrist, elbow or shoulder of the arm where the extravasation occurred

Notify the nurse at the chemotherapy centre and go to the emergency department if you have:

- Fever of 38.3 °C (101 °F) once.

OR

- Fever of 38 °C (100.4 °F) twice within a one-hour interval.

Nurse's signature : _____

Date : _____

Telephone number and extension : _____

Editing

Direction des soins infirmiers

Adapted from *Guide de prise en charge de l'extravasation des agents antinéoplasiques*. INESSS, April 2019.

Revision and layout

Service des communications

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