Mupirocin (myoo-peer-o-sin)

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**Classification**

Therapeutic: anti-infectives

**Pregnancy Category** B

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**Indications**

Topical: Treatment of impetigo. Secondarily infected traumatic skin lesions (up to 10 cm length or 100 cm² area) caused by *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Streptococcus pyogenes*. Intranasal: Eradicates nasal colonization with methicillin-resistant *S. aureus*.

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**Action**


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**Pharmacokinetics**

Absorption: Minimal systemic absorption.

Distribution: Remains in the stratum corneum after topical use for prolonged periods of time (72 hr).

Metabolism and Excretion: Metabolized in the skin, removed by desquamation.

Half-life: 17–36 min.

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**TIME/ACTION PROFILE (anti-infective effect)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROUTE</th>
<th>ONSET</th>
<th>PEAK</th>
<th>DURATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topical</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>3–5 days</td>
<td>72 hr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Contraindications/Precautions**

Contraindicated in: Hypersensitivity to mupirocin or polyethylene glycol.

Use Cautiously in: Renal impairment; Burn patients; OB, Lactation: Safety not established.

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**Adverse Reactions/Side Effects**

CNS: nasal only — headache. EENT: nasal only — cough, itching, pharyngitis, rhinitis, upper respiratory tract infections. GI: nausea; nasal only — altered taste.

**Interactions**

Drug-Drug: Nasal mupirocin should not be used concurrently with other nasal products.

**Route/Dosage**

Topical (Adults and Children ≥2 mo): Ointment: Apply 3–5 times daily for 5–14 days.

Topical (Adults and Children 3 mo): Cream: Apply small amount 5 times daily for 10 days.

Intranasal (Adults and Children ≥1 yr): Apply small amount nasal ointment to each nostril 2–4 times/day for 5–14 days.

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**NURSING IMPLICATIONS**

**Assessment**

- Assess lesions before and daily during therapy.

**Potential Nursing Diagnoses**

- **Impaired skin integrity** (indications)
- **Risk for infection** (indications) (Patient/Family Teaching)

**Implementation**

- Topical: Wash affected area with soap and water and dry thoroughly. Apply a small amount of mupirocin to the affected area 5 times daily and rub in gently. Treated area may be covered with gauze if desired.

- Nasal: Apply one half of the ointment from the single-use tube to each nostril twice daily (morning and evening) for 5 days. After application, close nostrils by pressing together and releasing sides of the nose repeatedly for 1 min.

**Patient/Family Teaching**

- Instruct patient on the correct application of mupirocin. Advise patient to apply medication exactly as directed for the full course of therapy. If a dose is missed, apply as soon as possible unless almost time for next dose. Avoid contact with eyes.

- Topical: Teach patient and family appropriate hygiene measures to prevent spread of impetigo.
Instruct parents to notify school nurse for screening and prevention of transmission.

Patient should consult health care professional if symptoms have not improved in 3–5 days.

**Evaluation/Desired Outcomes**

- Healing of skin lesions. If no clinical response is seen in 3–5 days, condition should be re-evaluated.
- Eradication of methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* carrier state in patients and health care workers during institutional outbreaks.

*Why was this drug prescribed for your patient?*