

Permitabs[®]

Potassium permanganate tablets for solution

Q: What are Permitabs, how do they work & what are they used for?

A:

Permitabs is a flat sided purple tablet which can be added to water to make a potassium permanganate solution.

Potassium permanganate works as an antiseptic and antimicrobial (an agent that destroys micro-organisms that might carry infection). It may also be used to dry up weeping skin or wounds.

Potassium permanganate is sometimes used in the following dermatological conditions:

- Infected eczema and blistering skin conditions
- Wound cleansing, especially weeping ulcers or abscesses
- Disinfecting and deodorising some skin conditions
- Fungal infections such as athlete's foot.

Q: How many tablets should I use & how long should I soak the affected area?

A:

Your doctor or nurse will suggest an appropriate concentration and treatment time depending on the severity of your infection.

But as a general guide, the dilution should be 1:10,000; this can be achieved by dissolving one tablet in about 4 litres of water. The affected area should be soaked for 10-15 minutes.

Q: How do I dispose of the solution once I have used it?

A:

Small amounts of dilute potassium permanganate solution can be poured down the drain with large quantities of water, unless the local water authority prohibits this.

Q: Can I store the diluted solution?

A:

The solution should be made when it is required and disposed of after use. The solution should not be stored in direct sunlight or warm temperatures. The solution can be stored for up to 12 hours, although Alliance does not recommend this.

If the solution appears cloudy do not use it.

Q: Does Permitabs cause staining, can it be avoided?

A:

Potassium permanganate can stain hands and nails brown, as well as the bath or vessel holding the solution.

Skin stains disappear within 48 hours, although if you are soaking hands or feet you may wish to apply petroleum jelly e.g. Vaseline to your nails to prevent them staining.

The best method to remove the stain from the bath is to scrub it, alternating between bleach and sodium bicarbonate, and repeating for as long as necessary.

It may be advisable to use an old container, alternatively the British Association of Dermatologists recommends lining the container with a clean bin liner.

http://www.bad.org.uk/public/leaflets/how_to/how_to_index.asp

Clothing stains may be washed away using a weak acid e.g. acetic acid (vinegar); although Alliance does not recommend this and would suggest testing on a small part of the affected fabric first.

Q: Can I use Permitabs on a long term basis?

A:

The duration of your treatment will be decided by your doctor or nurse; however it is important to be aware of the following points:

- Use of dilute solutions can irritate the skin and repeated or excessive use can cause corrosive burns
- Some staining of the skin will occur
- It may be possible that there is absorption of potassium permanganate into the body through ulcerated or broken skin or following excessive use, leading to side effects (although Alliance has not received any reports of this occurring).

Consequently, prolonged use is not recommended.

Q: Is it safe to use Permitabs during pregnancy?

A:

According to animal studies it is not known to interfere with the development of a baby and cause birth defects. It may therefore be used during pregnancy under the guidance of a nurse or doctor.

Q: Can Permitabs be used in babies and infants?

A:

A very weak solution is often used to treat babies and infants. The Childrens BNF suggests a 1:10,000 solution, the same as for an adult.

Q: Where can I get further information on Permitabs?

A:

Contact medical information at Alliance:

- By telephone: 01249 466966
- By email: medinfo@alliancepharma.co.uk

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