

Benzyl Benzoate * AHFS DI

Class: Scabicides and Pediculicides (Skin and Mucous Membrane)

Indications: Benzyl benzoate is used as an alternative agent for the topical treatment of scabies and also has been used for the topical treatment of pediculosis (lice infestation).

Available dosage form in the hospital: BENZYL BENZOATE B.P 25% LOTION

Trade Names:

Dosage:

Dosage

Scabies

Before applying benzyl benzoate topically for the treatment of scabies, the patient may bathe with soap and water, taking care to scrub and remove scaling or crusted detritus, then towel dry. While still damp, a thin layer of the 28% lotion should be applied uniformly and gently massaged into *all* skin surfaces (entire trunk and extremities) from the neck to the toes (including the soles of the feet). The drug should not be applied to the face, eyes, mucous membranes, or urethral meatus. When this first layer of lotion has dried, a second coat should be applied. Some clinicians recommend that this treatment be repeated on each of 2 successive days. Approximately **30 mL** of the lotion usually is sufficient for one application in adults and **20 mL** usually is sufficient in children. The patient should bathe 24–48 hours after the last application to remove the drug.

Although the first treatment of scabies with benzyl benzoate usually is successful, treatment may be repeated after 7–10 days if mites appear or new lesions develop. Additional treatments are warranted only if live mites can be demonstrated.

Pediculosis

For the treatment of pediculosis capitis (head lice infestation) or pediculosis pubis (pubic lice infestation), the manufacturer recommends that 28% benzyl benzoate lotion be rubbed into the affected hairy areas, avoiding exposure to the eyes. After 12–24 hours, the lotion should be removed with soap and water. The manufacturer states that pediculosis may be retreated after one week.

Common side effect:

Slight local irritation (especially of the male genitalia), itching, and allergic skin sensitivity. Repeated application of benzyl benzoate frequently causes contact dermatitis.

Pregnancy Risk Factor: N/A