

Patient information

Decolonization procedure for PVL – Staphylococcus aureus: how to use the decolonization preparations

Decolonization procedure for PVL - Staphylococcus aureus: how to use the decolonization preparations

The purpose of decolonization is to try to rid the body of the bacteria that have caused boils or other infections. Preparations must be used as detailed below.

General notes on skin treatment

As with all treatments to be applied to the skin, avoid contact with the eyes. Those who are pregnant, have eczema, or are under a year old should be screened first to see if they are carrying the bacteria (the doctor or nurse who is arranging your treatment will explain how this is done). The doctor will then decide whether treatment is appropriate. This treatment should not be used if there are any boils or skin lesions that are still leaking. Wait until boils or lesions are dry. Whilst the skin treatments are being used the following will help reduce spread of the bacteria within the care home or household:

- Sheets/towels should be changed daily
- Regular vacuuming and dusting, particularly the bedrooms
- If possible avoid bar soap and use pump action liquid soap
- Use individual personal towels and facecloths. Wash them frequently in a hot wash.
- Clean sink and bath with a disposable cloth and detergent after use, and then rinse clean

Octenisan antimicrobial wash lotion, use once a day for 5 days:

- Use daily as liquid soap in the bath, shower or bowl and as a shampoo on days 1, 3 and 5
- Do **NOT** dilute it beforehand in water as this will reduce its efficacy — apply directly to wet skin on a disposable wipe or on hand

- Do not use regular soap in addition during baths/showers
- Do **NOT** apply to dry skin
- Pay particular attention to armpits, groins, under breasts, hands and buttocks
- It should remain in contact with the skin for about a minute
- Rinse off well before drying skin thoroughly. This is particularly important in people with skin conditions (e.g. eczema).
- Towels should be for individual person use and, if possible, changed daily

Mupirocin (Bactroban Nasal) (use three times a day for 5 days):

Apply a matchstick head-sized amount (less for a small child) on the end of a cotton bud to the inner surface of each nostril. Press the sides of the nose together and massage gently to spread the ointment inside the nostrils.

Sometimes you might also be asked to gargle with an antiseptic solution.

For individual concerns or further advice please contact your GP or your local Health Protection Unit

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