

[Home](#)2. [Chlorhexidine](#)3. [Consumer Information](#)

Chlorhexidine topical

Generic name: chlorhexidine topical [*klor-HEX-i-deen-TOP-i-kal*]**Brand names:** Antiseptic Skin Cleanser, [Betasept](#), [Biopatch](#), [Calgon Vesta](#), [ChloraPrep One-Step](#), ... [show all 10 brands](#)**Dosage forms:** topical dressing (92 mg), topical liquid (2%), topical pad (2%), topical soap (4%)**Drug classes:** [Antiseptic and germicides](#), [Mouth and throat products](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Dec 21, 2023. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#)

What is chlorhexidine topical?

[Chlorhexidine](#) is an antiseptic that fights bacteria.

Chlorhexidine topical (for the skin) is used to clean the skin to prevent [infection](#) that may be caused by [surgery](#), injection, or skin injury.

Chlorhexidine topical may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Chlorhexidine topical side effects

Chlorhexidine can cause a rare but serious allergic reaction that may be life-threatening. Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction:** hives, severe skin [rash](#); [wheezing](#), difficult breathing; cold sweats, severe dizziness; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Chlorhexidine topical may cause serious side effects. Stop using chlorhexidine topical and call your doctor at once if you have:

- severe burning, [itching](#), or redness;
- blistering or peeling;
- swelling or severe skin rash; or
- any other severe irritation of treated skin.

Less serious side effects are more likely, and you may have none at all.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

[Chlorhexidine topical side effects](#) (more detail)

Related/similar drugs

FEATURED

Ozempic

Learn about Ozempic (semaglutide) for type 2 diabetes treatment, weight management, cardiovascular ...

Reviews & ratings

6.6 / 10

[1,504 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Warnings

Chlorhexidine can cause a rare but serious allergic reaction that may be life-threatening. Get emergency medical help if you have: hives, severe skin rash; wheezing, difficult breathing; cold sweats, severe dizziness; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use chlorhexidine topical if you are allergic to it.

Ask a doctor or pharmacist if it is safe for you to use chlorhexidine topical if you have any allergies to food, dyes, animals, or medicines.

It is not known whether chlorhexidine topical will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant.

It is not known whether chlorhexidine topical passes into breast milk or if it could affect the nursing baby. Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding.

Be very careful when using chlorhexidine topical on a child younger than 2 months old. This medicine may cause severe irritation or chemical burns on a very young child.

How should I use chlorhexidine topical?

Use exactly as directed on the label, or as prescribed by your doctor. Do not use in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended.

Do not take by mouth. Chlorhexidine topical is for use only on the skin.

Rinse the skin before applying chlorhexidine topical. Apply only enough medicine to cover the area you are treating. **Do not apply this medicine to deep cuts, scrapes, or open skin wounds.**

To use chlorhexidine topical **soap**, apply only enough to cover the area you are treating. Wash the area gently, then rinse thoroughly with plain water. Avoid using over large areas of skin.

This medicine is made under sterile conditions, but its contents are not sterilized. It is possible for bacteria to get inside

the product and contaminate it, which could spread infection. To avoid contaminating your medicine with bacteria:

- Use only the swab, pad, or applicator provided with your medicine.
- If no applicator is provided, use only a clean cotton ball or cotton swab to apply this medicine.
- Do not touch the tip of the medicine bottle with your fingers or touch it to your skin.
- Do not dilute the medicine with water or other liquid.
- Use the applicator (pad, swab, or other dressing) only once. Throw away after one use.

Call your doctor if your symptoms do not improve, or if they get worse while using chlorhexidine topical.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat. Do not freeze. Keep the bottle tightly closed when not in use.

If this medicine is packaged in a single-use foil wrapper or other container, use it only once. Throw away after one use, even if there is still medicine left in it. Do not save for later use.

i [Detailed Chlorhexidine topical dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Use the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose.

Do not use extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

What happens if I overdose?

An overdose of chlorhexidine topical is not expected to be dangerous. Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222 if anyone has accidentally swallowed the medication.

What should I avoid while using chlorhexidine topical?

Avoid getting chlorhexidine topical in your eyes, ears, nose, mouth, rectum, or vagina. If this does happen, rinse with water.

Avoid using other medicines on the areas you treat with chlorhexidine topical unless your doctor tells you to.

Avoid getting this medicine on your clothing or other fabrics. Do not use bleach to wash any fabric exposed to chlorhexidine or the medicine may cause a permanent stain.

What other drugs will affect chlorhexidine topical?

It is not likely that other drugs you take orally or inject will have an effect on topically applied chlorhexidine. But many drugs can interact with each other. Tell each of your health care providers about all medicines you use, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#).

i [Chlorhexidine topical drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does chlorhexidine topical interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

chlorhexidine topical

+

Enter a drug name

Add

More about chlorhexidine topical

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(65\)](#)
- [Latest FDA alerts \(3\)](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Drug class: antiseptic and germicides](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)

Patient resources

- [Chlorhexidine gluconate oral rinse drug information](#)
- [Chlorhexidine \(Periodontal\) \(Advanced Reading\)](#)
- [Chlorhexidine Gluconate \(Oral\)](#)
- [Chlorhexidine Gluconate \(Topical\)](#)

Other brands

[Hibiclens](#), [Peridex](#), [Betasept](#), [ChloraPrep One-Step](#), ... +11 more

Professional resources

- [Chlorhexidine \(EENT\) monograph](#)
- [Chlorhexidine Gluconate \(Topical\) \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)
- [Chlorhexidine \(FDA\)](#)
- [Chlorhexidine Cloth \(FDA\)](#)
- [Chlorhexidine Scrub \(FDA\)](#)

Other brands

[Hibiclens](#), [Peridex](#), [Betasept](#), [ChloraPrep One-Step](#), ... +7 more

Related treatment guides

- [Skin Disinfection, Preoperative](#)
- [Gingivitis](#)
- [Mucositis](#)
- [Periodontitis](#)

Further information


Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.


Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)


Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 9.02.

DRUG STATUS

Availability
 Rx and/or OTC

Pregnancy & Lactation
 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*
N/A Not a controlled drug

Approval History
 Drug history at FDA



User Reviews & Ratings

5.8 / 10

[65 Reviews](#)

Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



[About](#)

[About Drugs.com](#)
[Advertising policy](#)
[Attribution & citations](#)

Terms & privacy

[Terms of use](#)
[Editorial policy](#)
[Privacy policy](#)

Support

[Help center](#)
[Sitemap](#)
[Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

Drugs.com provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Ad Choices
ADVERTISEMENT



Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.