

soak for exudative eczematous areas; treatment should be stopped when the skin becomes dry.

### Desloughing agents

Alginate, hydrogel, and hydrocolloid dressings are effective in wound debridement. Sterile larvae (maggots) (available from BioMonde) are also used for managing sloughing wounds and are prescribable on the NHS.

Desloughing solutions and creams are of little clinical value. Substances applied to an open area are easily absorbed and perilesional skin is easily sensitised.

## ANTISEPTICS AND DISINFECTANTS

### Potassium permanganate

#### ● INDICATIONS AND DOSE

**Cleansing and deodorising suppurating eczematous reactions and wounds**

- ▶ TO THE SKIN
- ▶ Child: For wet dressings or baths, use approximately 0.01% (1 in 10 000) solution

- **CAUTIONS** Irritant to mucous membranes
- **DIRECTIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION** Potassium permanganate 0.1% solution to be diluted 1 in 10 to provide a 0.01% (1 in 10 000) solution. With potassium permanganate tablets for solution, 1 tablet dissolved in 4 litres of water provides a 0.01% (1 in 10 000) solution.
- **PATIENT AND CARER ADVICE** Can stain clothing, skin and nails (especially with prolonged use).
- **MEDICINAL FORMS** There can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same drug. Forms available from special-order manufacturers include: liquid

#### Tablet for cutaneous solution

- ▶ **EN-Potab** (Ennogen Healthcare Ltd)  
**Potassium permanganate 400 mg** EN-Potab 400mg tablets for cutaneous solution | 30 tablet  $\text{DT} = \text{£}19.25$
- ▶ **Permitabs** (Alliance Pharmaceuticals Ltd)  
**Potassium permanganate 400 mg** Permitabs 400mg tablets for cutaneous solution | 30 tablet  $\text{£}19.25$  DT =  $\text{£}19.25$

## ANTISEPTICS AND DISINFECTANTS > ALCOHOL DISINFECTANTS

### Alcohol

(Industrial methylated spirit)

#### ● INDICATIONS AND DOSE

**Skin preparation before injection**

- ▶ TO THE SKIN
- ▶ Child: Apply as required

- **CONTRA-INDICATIONS** Neonates
  - **CAUTIONS** Avoid broken skin · flammable · patients have suffered severe burns when diathermy has been preceded by application of alcoholic skin disinfectants
  - **PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING INFORMATION** Industrial methylated spirits defined by the BP as a mixture of 19 volumes of ethyl alcohol of an appropriate strength with 1 volume of approved wood naphtha.
  - **MEDICINAL FORMS** There can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same drug.
- Liquid**
- ▶ **Alcohol (Non-proprietary)**  
Industrial methylated spirit 70% | 600 ml  $\text{£}6.56$ – $\text{£}7.01$

## ANTISEPTICS AND DISINFECTANTS > IODINE PRODUCTS

### Povidone-iodine

#### ● INDICATIONS AND DOSE

**Skin disinfection**

- ▶ TO THE SKIN
- ▶ Child: (consult product literature)

**BETADINE® DRY POWDER SPRAY**

**Skin disinfection, particularly minor wounds and infections**

- ▶ TO THE SKIN
- ▶ Child 2–17 years: Not for use in serous cavities (consult product literature)

**VIDENE® SOLUTION**

**Skin disinfection**

- ▶ TO THE SKIN
- ▶ Child: Apply undiluted in pre-operative skin disinfection and general antiseptics

**VIDENE® SURGICAL SCRUB®**

**Skin disinfection**

- ▶ TO THE SKIN
- ▶ Child: Use as a pre-operative scrub for hand and skin disinfection

**VIDENE® TINCTURE**

**Skin disinfection**

- ▶ TO THE SKIN
- ▶ Child: Apply undiluted in pre-operative skin disinfection

- **CONTRA-INDICATIONS** Concomitant use of lithium · corrected gestational age under 32 weeks · infants body-weight under 1.5 kg · regular use in neonates
- **VIDENE® TINCTURE** Neonates
- **CAUTIONS** Broken skin · large open wounds
- **CAUTIONS, FURTHER INFORMATION**
  - ▶ Large open wounds The application of povidone-iodine to large wounds or severe burns may produce systemic adverse effects such as metabolic acidosis, hypernatraemia and impairment of renal function.
- **VIDENE® TINCTURE** Procedures involving hot wire cauterly and diathermy
- **SIDE-EFFECTS**
  - ▶ Rare or very rare Eye erythema · punctate keratitis
  - ▶ Frequency not known Cytotoxicity · eye discolouration · hypothyroidism (in neonates)
- **PREGNANCY** Sufficient iodine may be absorbed to affect the fetal thyroid in the second and third trimester.
- **BREAST FEEDING** Avoid regular or excessive use.
- **RENAL IMPAIRMENT** Avoid regular application to inflamed or broken skin or mucosa.
- **EFFECT ON LABORATORY TESTS** May interfere with thyroid function tests.

- **MEDICINAL FORMS** There can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same drug. Forms available from special-order manufacturers include: liquid

**Spray**

- ▶ **Betadine** (Aspire Pharma Ltd)  
**Povidone-iodine 25 mg per 1 gram** Betadine 2.5% dry powder spray | 100 ml  $\text{£}5.1$ – $\text{£}9.95$  DT =  $\text{£}9.95$

**Liquid**

CAUTIONARY AND ADVISORY LABELS 15 (Only for use with alcoholic solutions)

- ▶ **Videne** (Ecolab Healthcare Division)  
**Povidone-iodine 75 mg per 1 ml** Videne 7.5% surgical scrub solution | 500 ml  $\text{£}7.97$  DT =  $\text{£}7.97$