

several portions. Best prepared in a mortar using the method of doubling.

**Use:** Protective sunscreen agent.

**Label:** Label N: CONTAINS PEANUT OIL.

### Ear drops

Ear drops are solutions or suspensions<sup>3</sup> of medicaments in water, glycerol, propylene glycol or diluted ethanol. Propylene glycol should not be used if the eardrum is perforated: ototoxicity has been reported. It may be appropriate to filter ear drops if particulate matter is present in the solution.

**Containers and storage:** Ear drops should be dispensed in bottles with a dropper, or in a suitable plastic container. Store at below 25 °C unless otherwise specified.

**Labelling:** The container should be labelled CAUTION: NOT TO BE TAKEN. The name and concentration of any preservative agent used should also be shown.

**Expiry:** The expiry date is 28 days from the date of preparation unless otherwise specified.

#### Instructions for use to be provided to patients

- Clean and dry external ear canal thoroughly, making sure no trace of soap remains.
- Lie down with affected ear pointing upwards.
- Hold bottle in clenched hand for a few minutes to warm drops.
- Instil drops and remain in position for a few minutes.
- If a gauze 'wick' is used it must be kept moist with the drops and replaced after 24 hours.

### acetic acid ear drops

acetic acid (33% w/w) ..... 3 mL  
purified water, freshly boiled and cooled ..... to 100 mL

**Strength:** Contains about 1% w/v of acetic acid (limits 0.91 to 1.12% w/v of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>).

**Use:** Otitis externa.

### aluminium acetate ear drops

*Aurist. Alumin. Acet.*

aluminium acetate solution ..... 60 mL  
purified water, freshly boiled and cooled ..... to 100 mL

**Strength:** Contains about 8% of aluminium acetate (limits 0.9 to 1.2% w/v, calculated as Al).

**Note:** The aluminium acetate ear drops of the British Pharmacopoeia consist of undiluted aluminium acetate solution.

**Use:** Otitis externa.

### chlorhexidine ear drops

chlorhexidine acetate ..... 0.05 g  
purified water, freshly boiled and cooled ..... to 100 mL

**Strength:** Contains 0.05% w/v (1 in 2,000) of chlorhexidine acetate.

**Note:** These ear drops must not be used if the eardrum is perforated.

**Use:** Otitis externa.

### hydrocortisone ear drops

hydrocortisone ..... 0.5 g  
glycerol ..... to 100 mL

**Strength:** Contains 0.5% of hydrocortisone (limits 0.45 to 0.55% w/v of C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>5</sub>).

**Note:** These ear drops should be protected from light.

**Use:** Anti-inflammatory.

### hydrogen peroxide ear drops

hydrogen peroxide solution (6%) ..... 25 mL  
purified water, freshly boiled and cooled ..... to 100 mL

**Strength:** Contains 1.12 to 1.83% w/v of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (corresponds to about five times its volume of available oxygen).

**Note:** These ear drops should be freshly prepared and protected from light.

**Use:** Otitis externa, removal of ear wax.<sup>3,4</sup>

### salicylic acid ear drops

*Aurist. Acid. Salicyl.*

salicylic acid ..... 2 g  
ethanol (90%) ..... 50 mL  
purified water, freshly boiled and cooled ..... to 100 mL

**Strength:** Contains 2% of salicylic acid (limits 1.8 to 2.2% w/v of C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>3</sub>).

**Method:** Dissolve the salicylic acid in ethanol and make to volume with purified water.

**Use:** Otitis externa.<sup>4</sup>