

- Do not share ophthalmic drops with others
- Remove **contact lenses** before use because the preservative, benzalkonium chloride, may be absorbed by soft contact lenses; product should not be used to treat contact lens–related irritation; wait  $\geq 10$  min after instilling the ophthalmic solution before inserting contact lenses; contact lenses should not be worn if eye is red

### betamethasone (augmented) topical

See Appendix B

### betamethasone (topical) (Rx)

(bay-ta-meth'a-sonē)

### betamethasone augmented dipropionate (Rx)

### betamethasone dipropionate (Rx)

Diprolene, Diprolene AF, Sernivo

### betamethasone valerate

Beta-Val, Dermabet, Luxiq, Valnac

*Func. class.:* Corticosteroid, topical

**ACTION:** Crosses cell membrane to attach to receptors to decrease inflammation, itching; inhibits multiple inflammatory cytokines

**USES:** Inflammation/itching corticosteroid-responsive dermatoses on the skin/scalp

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:** Hypersensitivity, use of some preparations on face, axilla, groin

**Precautions:** Pregnancy, skin infections

### DOSAGE AND ROUTES

- **Adult:** **TOP** 1-2 times/day (dipropionate) or 1-3 times/day (valerate); or apply spray 0.05% bid up to 4 wk (plaque psoriasis, mild to moderate)

**Available forms:** **dipropionate:** gel, lotion, ointment, cream, spray 0.05%; **valerate:** cream, lotion, ointment 0.1%, foam 0.12%

### SIDE EFFECTS

**INTEG:** Burning, folliculitis, pruritus, dermatitis, maceration, erythema

**MISC:** Hyperglycemia, glycosuria, Cushing syndrome, HPA axis suppression

### PHARMACOKINETICS

Unknown

### NURSING CONSIDERATIONS

#### Assess:

- **Skin reactions:** • burning, pruritus, folliculitis, dermatitis
- **HPA axis suppression:** usually rare with topical products

#### Evaluate:

- Decreased itching, inflammation on the skin, scalp

#### Teach patient/family:

##### Topical route:

- That betamethasone valerate may be used with occlusive dressings for psoriasis or recalcitrant conditions; **not to use dipropionate with occlusive dressings**

##### Cream/ointment/lotion:

- To apply sparingly in a thin film, using gloves, and to rub gently into the cleansed, slightly moist affected area
- Not to use on broken, wet skin, area of infection, face, or groin, axilla

##### Gel:

- To apply sparingly in a thin film, using gloves, and to rub gently into the cleansed, slightly moist affected area

##### Scalp foam:

- To invert can and dispense a small amount of foam onto a saucer or other cool surface; not to dispense directly onto hands; to pick up small amounts of foam with fingers and gently massage into affected area until foam disappears; repeat until entire affected scalp area is treated
- That treatment should be limited to 2 wk