

Decolonization Therapy of *Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)

Decolonization therapy

Your doctor will prescribe the following topical decolonization therapy (provided that you do not have any contraindications with the prescriptions):

(1) 4% chlorhexidine gluconate liquid soap (Microshield 4%)

- Apply daily as a liquid soap to the whole body for 7 consecutive days; and
- Apply as a shampoo to hair and scalp on days 1, 3, 5 and 7.

How to use: Apply to the whole body, hair and scalp and leave for ONE minute before rinsing.

(2) 2% mupirocin nasal ointment (Bactroban or other products containing the same active ingredient)

- Apply three times a day for 7 consecutive days into anterior nares of both nostrils.

How to use: Apply a small amount of the nasal ointment (about the size of a match head) to the inner surface of one nostril (anterior nare). Repeat the same for the other nostril. The nostrils are then closed by pressing the sides of the nose together using the thumb and the index finger. This can spread the ointment inside the nares. A swab may be used to assist the application of the ointment. The patient may feel the taste the ointment at the nasopharynx or back of the throat after application, which is normal.

Caution: In general, decolonization therapy is not recommended for **infants under 2 months of age.**

Points to note

Both products (4% chlorhexidine gluconate liquid soap and 2% mupirocin nasal ointment) are for external use only. Keep them out of the reach of children.

(1) 4% chlorhexidine gluconate liquid soap / Microshield 4%

- Avoid contact of this product with the eyes and the moist membranes lining the inside of certain parts of the body (mucous membranes), e.g. mouth, nasal passages. If Microshield 4% comes into contact with the eyes, wash promptly and thoroughly with water. Rinse with water if accidental contact with mucous membranes occurs.
- Generalized hypersensitive or allergic reactions induced by Microshield 4% are rare. If skin irritation occurs, stop using it and seek medical advice immediately.
- Microshield 4% is incompatible with soap.
- Hypochlorite bleach may cause brown stains on fabric or clothing if it is in contact with Microshield 4%.

(2) 2% mupirocin nasal ointment / Bactroban

- It is prescribed specifically for the purpose of decolonization. Once decolonization is completed, users should not retain the unfinished medications for future use or other purposes, since it may induce antibiotics resistance in bacteria and treatment failure.

Produced by Union Hospital

The above information is for reference only, please enquire your doctor for details
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