

PRESCRIBING INFORMATION
INCLUDING PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION

^{Pr}**BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.**

Sulfacetamide sodium 10.0% w/v and prednisolone acetate 0.2% w/v

Sterile ophthalmic ointment

Steroid / Antibacterial

Allergan Inc.
Markham, ON
L6G 0B5

Date of Preparation:
May 22, 2019

Submission Control No: 217874

PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

NAME OF DRUG

^{Pr}**BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.**

Sulfacetamide sodium 10.0% w/v and prednisolone acetate 0.2% w/v

THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION

Steroid / Antibacterial

MECHANISM OF ACTION

BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P. (sulfacetamide sodium 10.0% w/v and prednisolone acetate 0.2% w/v) is a potent antibacterial (effective against a broad range of pathogens, including staphylococcus aureus). The prednisolone content effectively counters the allergic and inflammatory manifestations of blepharitis.

INDICATIONS

BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P. is indicated for the treatment of corticosteroid-responsive inflammatory conditions of the palpebral and bulbar conjunctiva, cornea and anterior segment of the globe where bacterial infection or a risk of bacterial infection exists.

BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P. is also indicated in chronic anterior uveitis and corneal injury from chemical, radiation or thermal burns.

BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P. contains an antibacterial ingredient, sulfacetamide sodium. To reduce the development of drug-resistant bacteria and maintain the effectiveness of sulfacetamide sodium, **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.** should only be used for the authorized indication.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Do not use **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.** if you have:

- superficial (or epithelial) herpes simplex keratitis (dendritic keratitis), purulent untreated infections, vaccinia, varicella and most other viral diseases of the cornea and conjunctiva
- mycobacterial infection of the eye
- ocular tuberculosis, fungal diseases of the eye
- individuals with known or suspected hypersensitivity to sulfonamides or to any components of the medication, other corticosteroids

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

In diseases due to microorganisms, infection may be masked, enhanced or activated by the steroid.

Severe Reactions

Fatalities have occurred, although rarely, due to severe reactions to sulfonamides including Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, fulminant hepatic necrosis, agranulocytosis, aplastic

anemia and other blood dyscrasias.

Sensitivity reactions

Sensitizations may recur when a sulfonamide is re-administered, irrespective of the route of administration. Sensitivity reactions have been reported in individuals with no prior history of sulfonamide hypersensitivity. Use with caution in patients with known or suspected sensitivity to sulfonamides – if sensitivity or other untoward reactions such as skin rash, increase in purulent discharge, or aggravation of inflammation or pain occur, the patient should discontinue medication and consult a physician.

Cross-sensitivity between different sulfonamides or between corticosteroids may occur.

As with all sulfonamide preparations, severe sensitivity reactions, e.g. Stevens-Johnson syndrome, fever, skin rash, gastrointestinal disturbances and bone marrow depression have been identified in individuals with no prior history of sulfonamide hypersensitivity.

Extended use may cause increased intraocular pressure (IOP) in susceptible individuals, resulting in glaucoma, with damage to the optic nerve, defects in visual acuity and fields of vision. Corticosteroids should be used with caution in the presence of narrow angle glaucoma; IOP should be checked frequently.

Reports in the literature indicate that posterior subcapsular lenticular opacities have been reported to occur after heavy or protracted use of topical ophthalmic corticosteroids.

The possibility of adrenal suppression should be considered with prolonged, frequent use of high dose topical steroids, particularly in infants and children.

Eye drops containing corticosteroids should not be used for more than 10 days except under strict ophthalmic supervision with regular checks for IOP.

Corneal and Scleral Thinning

Various ocular diseases and long-term use of topical corticosteroids have been known to cause corneal and scleral thinning. Use of topical corticosteroids in the presence of thin corneal or scleral tissue may lead to perforation.

Delayed Healing and Bleb Formation

The use of ophthalmic steroid ointments after cataract surgery may retard corneal healing and increase the incidence of bleb formation.

Masking Acute Purulent Infections

Acute purulent infections of the eye may be masked or activity enhanced by the presence of corticosteroid medication.

Secondary Ocular Infections

Prolonged use may suppress the host immune response in ocular tissues and thus increase the possibility of secondary ocular infections.

When signs of chronic ocular inflammation persist following prolonged corticosteroid dosing, the possibility of fungal infections of the cornea should be considered. Fungal cultures should be taken when appropriate.

Use of ocular steroids may prolong the course and may exacerbate the severity of many viral infections of the eye (including herpes simplex). Use of a corticosteroid medication in the treatment of patients with a history of herpes simplex requires great caution; frequent slit lamp microscopy is recommended.

Examination of the Patient

Eyelid cultures and tests to determine the susceptibility of organisms to sulfacetamide may be indicated if signs and symptoms fail to improve after 2 days.

Effects on Ability to Drive and Use Machines

Upon instillation, patients may experience transient blurred vision which may impair the ability to drive or use machinery. If affected, patients should not drive or use machinery until their vision has cleared.

Pregnant women

The safety of the use of topical steroids during pregnancy has not been established and it is not known whether **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.** can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman. **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.** should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus. Administration of corticosteroids to pregnant animals has been associated with abnormalities of fetal development.

Breast-feeding

It is not known whether topical administration of corticosteroids could result in sufficient systemic absorption to produce detectable quantities in breast milk. Systemically administered corticosteroids are secreted into breast milk in quantities not likely to have a deleterious effect on the infant. Nevertheless, caution should be exercised when topical corticosteroids are administered to a nursing woman. Systemically administered sulfonamides are capable of producing kernicterus in infants of lactating women. Because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants from **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.**, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the medication.

Pediatrics

Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients below the age of 6 years have not been established.

No overall differences in safety or effectiveness have been observed in younger patients.

Geriatrics

No overall differences in safety or effectiveness have been observed in elderly patients.

Susceptibility/Resistance

Development of Drug Resistant Bacteria

Prescribing **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.** in the absence of authorized indications is unlikely to provide benefit to the patient and risks the development of drug-resistant bacteria.

Potential for Microbial Overgrowth

Prolonged use of topical anti-bacterial agents may give rise to overgrowth of non-susceptible organisms including fungi. Bacterial resistance to sulfonamides may also develop. A significant percentage of staphylococcal isolates are resistant to sulfonamides.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

The effectiveness of sulfonamides is inactivated by the aminobenzoic acid present in purulent exudates and certain local anesthetics that are esters of p-aminobenzoic acid.

Topical sulfonamides are incompatible with silver salts, concurrent use is not recommended.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment

A small amount of **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.** should be applied to the conjunctival sac three or four times daily and once or twice at night.

If signs and symptoms fail to improve after two days, the patient should be re-evaluated.

Administration

The dosing of **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.** may be reduced, but care should be taken not to discontinue therapy prematurely. In chronic conditions, withdrawal of treatment should be carried out by gradually decreasing the frequency of applications.

Contact lenses should not be worn during the use of this product.

To prevent eye injury or contamination, care should be taken to avoid touching the tube tip to the eye or to any other surface. The use of the tube by more than one person may spread infection. Keep tube tightly closed when not in use.

OVERDOSAGE

Overdose by the topical ophthalmic route will not ordinarily cause acute problems.

In case of drug overdose, contact a health care practitioner, hospital emergency department or regional Poison Control Centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Corticosteroid-containing preparations have been reported to cause acute anterior uveitis. Ocular irritation, blurred vision, headache, keratitis, conjunctivitis, corneal ulcers, mydriasis, conjunctival hyperemia, loss of accommodation and ptosis have been reported occasionally following local use of corticosteroids.

Reactions occurring most often from the presence of the anti-infective component are allergic sensitization.

Systemic adverse reactions may occur with prolonged use of steroids.

The following adverse reactions have been identified during post-approval use of **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.** Because reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

Adverse reactions have occurred with corticosteroid/anti-infective combination drugs which can be attributed to the corticosteroid component, the anti-infective component, or the combination.

Reactions occurring with **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.** include: eye irritation, eye pruritus, hypersensitivity, and ocular hyperemia.

Fatalities have occurred, although rarely, due to severe reactions to sulfonamides including Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, fulminant hepatic necrosis, agranulocytosis, aplastic anemia, and other blood dyscrasias (See WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS).

The reactions due to the corticosteroid component in decreasing order of frequency are: elevation of IOP with possible development of glaucoma and infrequent optic nerve damage; and posterior subcapsular cataract formation. In addition, these preparations have also been reported to cause: dysgeusia, foreign body sensation, headache, mydriasis, pruritus (skin), rash, urticaria, and visual disturbance (blurry vision).

STORAGE AND STABILITY

BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P. should be stored at 15° to 25°C. Protect from freezing and light. Store in an upright position.

Sulfonamide solutions, on long standing and exposure to heat and light, will darken in color and should be discarded if they become dark brown. Yellowing does not affect activity.

Keep out of reach or sight of children.

DOSAGE FORM

BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P. is supplied sterile in collapsible aluminum tube with ophthalmic delivery tip and a polyethylene screw-cap closure.

**READ THIS FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF YOUR MEDICINE
PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION**

PrBLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.

Sulfacetamide sodium and prednisolone acetate

Sterile ophthalmic ointment

Read this carefully before you start taking BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P. and each time you get a refill. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about this drug. Talk to your healthcare professional about your medical condition and treatment and ask if there is any new information about BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.

What is BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P. used for?

BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P. is used to treat inflammatory conditions of the eye where a bacterial infection also exists or where a bacterial infection could occur.

BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P. is also used to treat injury to the eye from chemical, radiation or thermal burns.

BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P. contains an antibacterial called sulfacetamide sodium, and it should be used exactly as directed by your healthcare professional.

How does BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P. work?

BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P. reduces inflammation and stops bacteria from growing in your eye.

What are the ingredients in BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.:

Medicinal ingredients: Sulfacetamide sodium and prednisolone acetate

Non-medicinal ingredients: Lanolin alcohol, mineral oil, petrolatum and white petrolatum

BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P. comes in the following dosage forms:

As an ophthalmic ointment containing sulfacetamide sodium 10.0% w/v and prednisolone acetate 0.2% w/v

Do not use BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P. if you:

- have a viral infection of the eye called herpes keratitis
- have other viral infections of the eye
- have eye infections with pus
- have tuberculosis infection of the eye
- have other mycobacterial infection of the eye
- have fungal infection of the eye
- are allergic to sulfacetamide sodium, prednisolone acetate or any other ingredient in **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.**
- are allergic to antibiotics called sulfonamides
- are allergic to medicines called corticosteroids

To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional before you use BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P. Talk about any health conditions or problems you may have, including if you :

- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant
- are breast-feeding or planning to breast-feed
- have an eye condition called glaucoma
- recently had cataract surgery
- have corneal or scleral tissue damage which is damage to the outside part of your eyeball

Eye drops containing corticosteroids should not be used for more than 10 days except under strict ophthalmic supervision with regular checks for eye pressure.

Other warnings you should know about:

It is not known if **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.** is safe and effective in children younger than 6 years of age.

Your vision may be temporarily blurry after using **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.** Wait until your vision is clear before driving or using machines.

Potential Effects of Prolonged Use

Long term use may result in a new infection of your eye which does not respond to **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.**

New Eye Infections

Using corticosteroids, like **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.**, especially for a long time, can affect how your body handles infections. Infections caused by bacteria, viruses or fungi can be hidden or can get worse when you use **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.** Your body's ability to fight infection may also be reduced. This can make you more likely to get new eye infections. If you notice any symptoms of an infection, such as eye swelling or redness that is not getting better, eye discharge, fever and chills, or you have extreme fatigue, talk to your healthcare professional immediately.

Tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you take, including any drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements or alternative medicines.

The following may interact with **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.**:

- local anesthetics
- silver salts which are medicines used to treat eye infections

How to use **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.**:

- If you wear contact lenses, you should not wear them while you are using **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.**
- Use **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.** as your doctor tells you to. Do not change the amount you use without consulting your doctor. If you stop treatment contact your doctor right away.
- Be careful not to touch your eye or any other surface with the tip of the tube. If you do, you may contaminate the medicine and this can infect your eyes later on.
- Although you may feel better early in treatment, **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.** should be used exactly as directed.
- Misuse or overuse of **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.** could lead to the growth of bacteria that will not be killed by sulfacetamide sodium (resistance). This means that **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.** or other medicines that contain sulfacetamide sodium may not work for you in the future.
- Do not share your medicine.
- If your symptoms do not go away after two days of using **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.**, talk to your doctor. Your doctor will need to decide if you should keep using **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.**

Usual dose:

Apply a small amount of **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.** into the conjunctival sac, which is the space between the inside of your lower eyelid and your eyeball. Apply **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.** between 3 and 6 times per day.

Overdose:

In case of drug overdose, contact a health care practitioner, hospital emergency department or regional Poison Control Centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

What are possible side effects from using BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.?

These are not all the possible side effects you may feel when taking **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.** If you experience any side effects not listed here, contact your healthcare professional.

Side effects may include:

- Altered sense of taste
- Blurred vision
- Drooping of the upper eyelid
- Eye inflammation
- Eye irritation
- Eye redness
- Feeling like there is something in your eye
- Headache
- Hypersensitivity
- Itchy eyes
- Large (dilated) pupils
- Rash, itching around the eye

Your doctor may perform tests on your eye while you are using **BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.**

Serious side effects and what to do about them			
Symptom / effect	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
Allergic reaction: difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, fever, hives, itchy skin, rash, swelling of your tongue, throat or face.			√
Cataracts (clouding of the lens of your eye): blurry vision, clouded vision, eye pain, fading or yellowing of colours, seeing halos and glare around lights, trouble seeing at night		√	
Eye infection, including corneal ulcers: itching, pain, redness, sensitivity to bright light, swelling, tearing, yellow discharge or crusts around the eye			√
Glaucoma (serious eye disease where pressure in the eye is increased): blurred vision, eye redness, halos around lights, loss of vision, nausea, severe eye pain, vomiting			√
Stevens-Johnson Syndrome and Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (life-threatening skin conditions): blisters, rash, skin peeling, especially in mouth and eyes.			√
Cushings Syndrome: abnormal weight gain, bruising, fatigue, high blood pressure			√
Damage to a part of your eye called the optic nerve: vision loss			√

If you have a troublesome symptom or side effect that is not listed here or becomes bad enough to interfere with your daily activities, talk to your healthcare professional.

Reporting Side Effects

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/report-declaration/index-eng.php>) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or
- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345.

NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

Storage:

BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P. should be stored at 15 to 25°C. Protect from freezing and light. Store in an upright position.

Keep out of reach and sight of children.

If you want more information about BLEPHAMIDE® S.O.P.:

- Talk to your healthcare professional
- Find the full product monograph that is prepared for healthcare professionals and includes this Patient Medication Information by visiting the Health Canada website (<http://hc-sc.gc.ca/index-eng.php>); the manufacturer's website www.allergan.ca, or by calling 1-800-668-6424.

This leaflet was prepared by Allergan Inc.

Last revised: May 22, 2019

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