



3 August 2021

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Locorten Vioform[®] (flumetasone/clioquinol) 0.02% w/v / 1% w/v ear drops solution

Priority: Level 2*
Valid until: April 2022

Issue

1. Locorten Vioform[®] (flumetasone/clioquinol) 0.02% w/v / 1% w/v ear drops are out of stock until April 2022.
2. There are no other combination products on market that contain a steroid and an antimicrobial agent with both antibacterial and antifungal properties.
3. Alternative topical combination steroid and antibacterial preparations for the ear are available (see Additional Information below).
4. The only topical antifungal preparation on the market for use in the ear is Canesten[®] (clotrimazole) 1% solution.

Advice and Actions

5. Clinicians prescribing treatment should:
 - not initiate any new patients on Locorten Vioform[®] ear drops;
 - consider prescribing an alternative combination steroid and antibacterial ear drops (see Additional Information below);
 - consider whether there is also a clear clinical need to co-prescribe antifungal ear drops;
 - counsel patients on how to administer two separate ear drops if both a steroid-antibacterial combination product and an antifungal is prescribed (see Additional Information below).

Additional Information

Clinical Information

6. Locorten Vioform[®] is licensed for the treatment of inflammatory conditions of the external ear where a secondary infection is suspected, and otorrhoea.
7. It contains the steroid flumetasone and clioquinol, which has anti-fungal and anti-bacterial properties. There are no other steroid/antibacterial/antifungal combination ear drops on the market and flumetasone and clioquinol are not available as separate components. Whether there is a need for an antifungal in addition to a steroid and antibacterial agent needs to be clinically assessed and if deemed necessary, an alternative steroid-antibacterial and antifungal will need to be prescribed as separate ear preparations. The only licensed antifungal ear drops are Canesten[®] (clotrimazole) 1% solution (Table 1).

8. There are several steroid-antibacterial combination ear preparations available (Table 2).

Table 1

Alternative antifungal ear drops	Components	Stock availability
Canesten® solution	Clotrimazole 1%	In stock- can support a full uplift

Table 2

Alternative steroid-antibacterial ear preparations	Components	Availability
Betnesol-N® eye/ear/nose drops	Betamethasone sodium phosphate 0.1%, Neomycin sulphate 0.5%	In stock – can support a full uplift
Otomize® ear spray	Dexamethasone 0.1%, neomycin sulphate 0.5%, glacial acetic acid 2%	In stock – can support a full uplift
Otosporin® ear drops	Hydrocortisone 1%, neomycin sulphate 3400 units/mL, polymyxin B sulphate 10,000 units/mL	In stock – can support a partial uplift
Sofradex® ear/eye drops	Dexamethasone 0.05%, framycetin sulphate 0.5%, gramicidin 0.005%	In stock – can support a full uplift

Counselling Points:

9. Clinicians should be aware of the following when counselling patients:

- Explain to patients the mechanism of action of the components being prescribed.
- Anecdotally, the administration of Canesten® solution into the ear can be painful; patients should be counselled appropriately.
- If prescribing both a combination steroid-antibacterial and antifungal ear drops, advise patients to allow a gap of 2-5 minutes before administering the second preparation; there is no guidance on optimal sequence, but the steroid preparation could be administered first in case of pain following use of Canesten® solution.

10. Further advice on the management of otitis externa can be found here:

- [NICE CKS: Otitis Externa](#)
- [BNF treatment summary: Ear](#)

11. Please refer to the SPCs for further information on all preparations:

- [Locorten Vioform® ear drops](#)
- [SPC Betnesol-N® eye/ear/nose drops](#)
- [SPC Otomize® ear spray](#)
- [SPC Otosporin® ear drops](#)

- [SPC Sofradex® ear/eye drops](#)
- [SPC Canesten® solution](#)

Enquiries

12. Enquiries from Health Boards or healthcare professionals should be directed in the first instance to PharmacyTeam@gov.scot (primary care) or NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot (secondary care).