NOVARTIS

NATACYN (natamycin 5%)

50mg/mL ophthalmic suspension

Basic Succinct Statement

CODE: BSS RD MAR 2018; APPR 30 NOV 18

This material is only meant for Healthcare Professionals

NATACYN

Important note: Before prescribing, consult full prescribing information.

Presentation: Glass bottle. Each ml of solution contains 50 mg natamycin and 0.2 mg Benzalkonium Chloride as a preservative.

Indications: Treatment of fungal blepharitis, conjunctivitis and keratitis caused by susceptible organisms including *Fusarium solani* keratitis. As in other forms of suppurative keratitis, initial and sustained therapy of fungal keratitis should be determined by the clinical diagnosis, laboratory diagnosis by smear and culture of corneal scrapings and drug response. Whenever possible the in vitro activity of natamycin against the responsible fungus should be determined.

Dosage and administration: ♦ **Use in fungal keratitis:** The preferred initial dosage is one drop of NATACYN* 5% instilled in the conjunctival sac at hourly or two-hourly intervals. The frequency of application can usually be reduced to one drop 6 to 8 times a day after the first 3 to 4 days. Therapy should generally be continued for 14 to 21 days or until there is resolution of active fungal keratitis. In many cases, it may be helpful to reduce the dosage gradually at 4 to 7 day intervals to assure that the replicating organism has been eliminated. ♦ **Use in fungal blepharitis and conjunctivitis:** Less frequent initial dosage (4 to 6 daily applications) may be sufficient.

Contraindications: ♦ hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients.

Warnings and Precautions: ♦ Failure of improvement of keratitis following 7 - 10 days of administration of the drug suggests that the infection may be caused by a microorganism not susceptible to natamycin. Continuation of therapy should be based on clinical re-evaluation and additional laboratory studies. ♦ Adherence of the suspension to areas of epithelial ulceration or retention of the suspension in the fornices occurs regularly. ♦ Patients on this drug should be monitored. If suspicion of drug toxicity occurs, the drug should be discontinued. ♦ NATACYN* contains benzalkonium chloride which may cause eye irritation and is known to discolour soft contact lenses. Avoid contact with soft contact lenses. Contact lenses wear is not recommended during treatment of eye infection. ♦ **Interaction with other Medicinal Products and Other Forms of Interaction:** Caution is required in the use of corticosteroids because they can adversely affect the efficacy of antifungal. ♦ **Effects on Ability to Drive and Use Machines:** Temporary blurred vision or other visual disturbances may affect the ability to drive or use machines. If blurred vision occurs after administration, the patient must wait until the vision clears before driving or using machinery.

Adverse drug reactions: ♦ **Not known** - *In order of decreasing seriousness:* medication residue, foreign body sensation, lacrimation increased, eye pain, eye irritation, ocular hyperaemia.

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