Patient information factsheet

Glycopyrronium bromide iontophoresis treatment - information for patients and carers

Introduction
Your consultant dermatologist has referred you for a course of treatment called palm iontophoresis with glycopyrronium bromide (Robinul) 0.05% in aqueous solution using 12M.A machine.

This is because you suffer from excessive sweating of your hands (hyperhidrosis) and they believe this is the best treatment for you.

This is a recognised, established and widely used treatment. It is used successfully in dermatology departments across the country.

Iontophoresis is a safe and effective treatment that passes a mild, controllable electrical current through your skin in areas of excessive sweating.

Glycopyrronium bromide is an antiperspirant drug used for palm iontophoresis when tap water iontophoresis alone has been unsuccessful.

Specially trained dermatology nurses, working under the supervision of consultant dermatologists, give this treatment in the dermatology department.

This is not a permanent treatment, so if it is successful you will need to have ongoing maintenance treatment.

About the course of treatment
You will have to come to the department for treatment once a week, for four to six weeks. After that you will continue to have maintenance treatment as and when required. You can only have treatment every seven days.

You will be asked to sign a consent form, which confirms that you agree to have the treatment and understand what it involves.

The nurse will talk you through what to do before and during every treatment.

If you have any cuts or broken skin on your palms the nurse will ask you to apply a greasy ointment to these areas before treatment.

You will be asked to remove all jewellery and ensure that you do not have any metal on your clothing which is in contact with your skin during the treatment.
**Suitability for treatment**
This treatment is not suitable for everyone. If you have any of the following you must inform your consultant dermatologist or dermatology nurse before treatment:

- pregnancy
- glaucoma
- pacemaker in situ
- metal orthopaedic implant
- cardiovascular disease (heart or blood vessels)
- chronic bronchitis
- obstructive disorders of the lower urinary tract
- thyrotoxicosis
- paralytic ileus
- pyloric stenosis
- myasthenia gravis
- infections affecting the palms.

**Possible side effects**
Glycopyrronium bromide is poorly absorbed when used for iontophoretic treatment, therefore side effects are unlikely. However you should be aware that the following side effects may occur after one hour:

- reduced salivery secretions (leading to dry mouth and dry throat)
  - on treatment days you should not to drink too much as this may affect your electrolytes. You should not eat dry biscuits or crisps etc.
- impaired general sweating
  - on treatment days you should not undertake any activity leading to generalised sweating
- blurred vision
- headache
- drowsiness
  - on treatment days you should not drive or operate machinery
- tummy pains
- fast heart rate
- going to the toilet to empty your bladder (going for a wee) may be temporarily affected for some hours after treatment
- slight tingling, pricking or discomfort on your palms during the treatment (may be worse during first few treatments)
- pain or burning sensation on palms during treatment
- itchy, dry rash on your palms (you are advised to apply moisturisers for this)
- slight electrical shock (harmless) if you remove your palms from the treatment trays during treatment
- microbruising on your palms
- electrical burn on your palms if your skin touches the electrode (these are covered with plastic mesh to prevent this occurring).

**Further information**
If you need further information you can telephone the dermatology nurses on **023 8082 5011**, Monday to Friday.

---

**If you need a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in large print, Braille or on audio tape, please telephone 023 8079 4688 for help.**