

**Becotide (beclomethasone dipropionate BP), inhaler and rotacaps :
whitethroat.**

Contributors

Allen & Hanburys

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WHITETHROAT

Becotide

(beclomethasone dipropionate BP)

INHALER and ROTACAPS

Selective topical steroid therapy in bronchial asthma

PRESENTATIONS AND BASIC NHS COSTS

Becotide Inhaler is a metered-dose aerosol delivering 50mcg beclomethasone dipropionate BP per actuation. Each canister contains 200 inhalations. Basic NHS cost £4.34. Becotide Rotacaps 100mcg & 200mcg each contain a mixture of the stated amount of microfine beclomethasone dipropionate BP and larger particle lactose in buff or chocolate-brown/colourless hard gelatine cartridges, respectively. Containers of 100. Basic NHS cost £6.60 & £8.79 respectively. Becotide Rotahaler, for use in conjunction with Becotide Rotacaps. Basic NHS cost 65p.

INDICATIONS

Bronchial asthma, especially in patients whose asthma is not adequately controlled by bronchodilators and patients with severe asthma who would otherwise be dependent on systemic corticosteroids or adreno-corticotrophic hormone (ACTH) or its synthetic equivalent.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Using Becotide Inhaler — Adults: two inhalations three or four times a day is the usual maintenance dose. In severe cases dosage may be started at twelve to sixteen inhalations per day and subsequently reduced when the patient begins to respond.

Children: one or two inhalations, two, three or four times a day according to the response.

Using Becotide Rotahaler — Adults: one 200mcg Becotide Rotacap three or four times a day is the usual maintenance dose.

Children: one 100mcg Becotide Rotacap, two, three or four times a day according to the response.

For optimum results inhaled Becotide should be administered regularly.

CONTRA-INDICATIONS

No specific contra-indications to inhaled Becotide are known, but special care is necessary in patients with active or quiescent pulmonary tuberculosis.

PRECAUTIONS

The maximum daily intake of beclomethasone dipropionate BP should not exceed 1mg. Inadequate response after the first week of inhaled Becotide therapy suggests that excessive mucus is preventing penetration of inhaled drug to the target area. A short course of systemic steroid in relatively high dosage should be given and therapy with inhaled Becotide continued. Unnecessary administration of drugs during the first trimester of pregnancy is undesirable. When transferring patients to Becotide from systemic steroid therapy the possibility of adrenocortical suppression should be considered and patients given a supply of oral steroids for use during periods of stress. Please refer to the detailed procedure described in the data sheets for Becotide Inhaler and Becotide Rotacaps.

SELECTED BIRDS OF BRITAIN

WHITETHROAT

Sylvia communis

The Whitethroat is found throughout Britain during the summer, and it winters in Northern Africa. Less shy than some other warblers, it is comparatively common although its numbers have declined since 1969 probably owing to severe droughts in the south Sahara Desert. It inhabits a variety of areas especially those containing rough growths of brambles, briars or overgrown hedges. Food consists of insects and larvae, also fruit. The short but sweet song is given from a perch or in flight, ending abruptly when the bird darts into undergrowth. The Whitethroat has a scolding 'churr' and also a soft 'whit whit' call.

During courtship the male races towards the female, singing and apparently attacking. She responds by drooping her wings and tail, and faces the male as if to drive him away. The male builds trial nests, one of which may be used. The nest is deep, and built of grass, often lined with hair. 4-6 pale buff or greenish eggs, speckled with grey, are laid. The female is browner than the male. These birds attain a length of 5½ inches (14 cm).

(Illustration from "A History of British Birds" by F. O. Morris)

SIDE EFFECTS

Occasional candidiasis of the mouth and throat (thrush) occurs in some patients, particularly those with high blood levels of Candida precipitins. Topical therapy with antifungal agents usually clears the condition without withdrawal of Becotide.

LEGAL CATEGORY

POM

PRODUCT LICENCE NUMBERS

Becotide Inhaler 0045/0089; Becotide Rotacaps 100mcg 0045/0119; Becotide Rotacaps 200mcg 0045/0120.

Full prescribing information is available on request.

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