

## Medication Guide

T2006-02

### ELIDEL<sup>®</sup> [EL'-ee-del] (pimecrolimus) Cream 1%

**You must read and follow all instructions before using ELIDEL Cream.**

Read the Medication Guide you get every time you or a family member gets ELIDEL Cream. There may be new information. This Medication Guide does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or treatment. If you have any questions about ELIDEL Cream, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

#### **What is the most important information I should know about ELIDEL Cream?**

The safety of using ELIDEL Cream for a long period of time is not known. A very small number of people who have used ELIDEL Cream have had cancer (for example, skin or lymphoma). However, a link with ELIDEL Cream use has not been shown. Because of this concern:

- Do not use ELIDEL Cream continuously for a long time.
- Use ELIDEL Cream only on areas of your skin that have eczema.
- Do not use ELIDEL Cream on a child under 2 years old.

#### **What is ELIDEL Cream?**

ELIDEL Cream is a prescription medicine used on the skin (topical) to treat eczema (atopic dermatitis). ELIDEL Cream is in a class of medicines called topical calcineurin inhibitors. ELIDEL Cream is for adults and children age 2 years and older who do not have a weakened immune system. ELIDEL Cream is used on the skin for short periods, and if needed, treatment may be repeated with breaks in between. ELIDEL Cream is for use after other prescription medicines have not worked for you or if your doctor recommends that other prescription medicines should not be used.

#### **Who should not use ELIDEL Cream?**

##### **Do not use ELIDEL Cream:**

- on children under 2 years of age
- if you are allergic to ELIDEL Cream or anything in it. See the end of this Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients.

## **What should I tell my doctor before starting ELIDEL Cream?**

Before you start using ELIDEL Cream, tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- have a skin disease called Netherton's syndrome (a rare inherited condition)
- have any infection on your skin including chicken pox or herpes.
- have been told you have a weakened immune system
- are pregnant, breastfeeding, or planning to become pregnant.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Tell your doctor about all the skin medicines and products you use.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them with you to show your doctor and pharmacist each time you get a new medicine.

## **How should I use ELIDEL Cream?**

- Use ELIDEL Cream exactly as prescribed.
- Use ELIDEL Cream only on areas of your skin that have eczema.
- Use ELIDEL cream for short periods, and if needed, treatment may be repeated with breaks in between.
- Stop ELIDEL Cream when the signs and symptoms of eczema, such as itching, rash, and redness go away, or as directed by your doctor.
- Follow your doctor's advice if symptoms of eczema return after a treatment with ELIDEL Cream.
- Call your doctor if:
  - your symptoms get worse with ELIDEL Cream
  - you get an infection on your skin
  - your symptoms do not improve after 6 weeks of treatment. Sometimes other skin diseases can look like eczema.

### **To apply ELIDEL Cream:**

- Wash your hands before using ELIDEL Cream. When applying ELIDEL Cream after a bath or shower, make sure your skin is dry.
- Apply a thin layer of ELIDEL Cream only to the affected skin areas, twice a day, as directed by your doctor.
- Use the smallest amount of ELIDEL Cream needed to control the signs and symptoms of eczema.

- If you are a caregiver applying ELIDEL Cream to a patient, or if you are a patient who is not treating your hands, wash your hands with soap and water after applying ELIDEL Cream. This should remove any cream left on the hands.
- Do not bathe, shower or swim right after applying ELIDEL Cream. This could wash off the cream.
- You can use moisturizers with ELIDEL Cream. Make sure you check with your doctor first about the products that are right for you. Because the skin of patients with eczema can be very dry, it is important to keep up good skin care practices. If you use moisturizers, apply them after ELIDEL Cream.

### **What should I avoid while using ELIDEL Cream?**

- Do not use sun lamps, tanning beds, or get treatment with ultraviolet light therapy during treatment with ELIDEL Cream.
- Limit sun exposure during treatment with ELIDEL Cream even when the medicine is not on your skin. If you need to be outdoors after applying ELIDEL Cream, wear loose fitting clothing that protects the treated area from the sun. Ask your doctor what other types of protection from the sun you should use.
- Do not cover the skin being treated with bandages, dressings or wraps. You can wear normal clothing.
- Do not use ELIDEL Cream in the eyes. If ELIDEL Cream gets in your eyes rinse your eyes with cold water.
- Do not swallow ELIDEL Cream. If you do, call your doctor.

### **What are the possible side effects of ELIDEL Cream?**

**The most common side effect at the skin application site** is burning or a feeling of warmth. These side effects are usually mild or moderate, happen during the first 5 days of treatment, and usually clear up in a few days. Call your doctor if the burning feeling is severe or lasts for more than 1 week.

**Other side effects include** headache, common cold or stuffy nose, sore throat, influenza, fever, viral infection, and cough. Some people may get viral skin infections (like cold sores, chicken pox, shingles, or warts) or swollen lymph nodes (glands).

Talk to your doctor if you have a skin infection or if side effects (for example, swollen glands) continue or bother you.

These are not all the side effects with ELIDEL Cream. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

### **How should I store ELIDEL Cream?**

- Store ELIDEL Cream at room temperature between 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).
- **Keep ELIDEL Cream and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

### **General advice about ELIDEL Cream**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Use ELIDEL Cream only for the condition for which it was prescribed. Do not give ELIDEL Cream to other people even if they have the same symptoms you have, as it may not be right for them.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about ELIDEL Cream. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor.

Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about ELIDEL Cream that is written for health care professionals. For more information, you can also visit the Novartis Internet site at [www.elidel.com](http://www.elidel.com) or call the ELIDEL Cream help line at 877-4 ELIDEL (877-435-4335).

### **What are the ingredients in ELIDEL Cream?**

**Active ingredient:** pimecrolimus

**Inactive ingredients:** benzyl alcohol, cetyl alcohol, citric acid, mono- and di-glycerides, oleyl alcohol, propylene glycol, sodium cetostearyl sulphate, sodium hydroxide, stearyl alcohol, triglycerides, and water



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