

REVIEWED

By Chris at 9:42 am, May 16, 2019



Elidel Cream

Generic Name: pimecrolimus topical (pi MEK roe LYE mus TOP ik al)

Brand Names: *Elidel*

Medically reviewed by Sanjai Sinha, MD. Last updated on Apr 11, 2019.

What is Elidel?

Elidel (pimecrolimus) is an immunosuppressant. It works by decreasing your body's immune system to help slow down the growth of atopic dermatitis (eczema) on your skin.

See also: Dupixent

Elidel Cream is used to treat severe atopic dermatitis (**eczema**) when other medications have not worked well.

Elidel Cream may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Important information

You should not use Elidel if you are allergic to pimecrolimus, or if you have a bacterial or viral skin infection (including herpes or chicken pox).

Before using Elidel Cream, tell your doctor if you have skin cancer or any type of skin infection, Netherton's syndrome, a weak immune system, kidney disease, or swelling, redness, or irritation over large skin areas.

Avoid applying Elidel Cream to an area that may be affected with skin cancer.

Elidel can lower the blood cells that help your body fight infections. This can make it easier for you to get sick from a virus. Tell your doctor if you have been exposed to any illness, or if you have any signs of infection such as fever, chills, sore throat, or flu symptoms.

Talk with your doctor if your symptoms do not improve after 6 weeks of treatment.

Before using Elidel

You should not use Elidel if you are allergic to pimecrolimus, or if you have a bacterial or viral skin infection (including herpes or chicken pox).

To make sure Elidel is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have any of these conditions:

- skin cancer or any type of skin infection;

- Netherton's syndrome (a genetic skin disorder);
- a weak immune system (caused by disease or by using certain medicines); or
- swelling, redness, or irritation over large skin areas.

FDA pregnancy category C. It is not known whether Elidel will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant while using this medication.

See also:

Elidel pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings (in more detail)

It is not known whether pimecrolimus passes into breast milk or if it could harm a nursing baby. You should not breast-feed while you are using this medication.

Elidel Cream should not be used on a child younger than 2 years old.

A small number of people have developed skin cancer or lymphoma after using pimecrolimus or tacrolimus (Protopic) skin medications. However, it is not known if either of these medicines causes skin cancer. Talk to your doctor about your individual risk.

How should I use Elidel?

Use Elidel only on the skin, exactly as it was prescribed for you. Follow the directions on your prescription label. Do not use this medicine in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended. Elidel Cream is not for long-term use.

Use Elidel only on skin areas affected with eczema. Stop using the medicine once your symptoms have cleared up, unless your doctor has told you otherwise.

Elidel Cream is for use on the skin only (topical). Do not get the cream in your eyes, nose, mouth, vagina, or rectum.

Wash your hands before and after using this medicine, unless you are using the medication to treat a hand condition.

Apply the medicine only to clean, dry skin. Use the smallest amount needed to apply a thin layer to the skin areas diagnosed with atopic dermatitis. Rub in gently.

Do not cover the treated skin with a bandage. Bandaging can increase the amount of drug you absorb through your skin and may cause harmful effects. Do not bathe, shower, or swim right after applying Elidel. Water may wash off the medicine.

Right after applying Elidel, you may need to rub in a moisturizing cream or lotion to keep your skin from getting too dry. Ask your doctor about which cream or lotion to use.

Elidel can lower the blood cells that help your body fight infections. This can make it easier for you to get sick from a virus such as chicken pox or herpes (cold sores or shingles). Tell your

doctor if you have been exposed to any illness, or if you have any signs of infection such as fever, chills, sore throat, or flu symptoms.

Talk with your doctor if your symptoms do not improve after 6 weeks of treatment.

Store at room temperature. Do not freeze. Keep the medicine tube tightly capped when not in use.

See also:

Elidel dosage information (in more detail)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Use the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose. Do not use extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

What happens if I overdose?

An overdose of Elidel is not expected to be dangerous. Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222 if anyone has accidentally swallowed the medication.

What should I avoid?

Avoid getting this medication in your eyes, nose, mouth, rectum, or vagina. If this does happen, rinse with water. Avoid applying Elidel Cream to an area that may be affected with skin cancer.

Avoid using other medications on the areas you treat with Elidel unless your doctor tells you to.

Avoid exposure to sunlight, tanning beds, and phototherapy treatments with UVA or UVB light. If you must be outdoors, wear loose clothing over the skin areas treated with Elidel Cream. Do not use sunscreen on treated skin unless your doctor has told you to.

Drinking alcohol while you are using Elidel may cause your skin or face to feel hot and become flushed or red.

Elidel side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these signs of an allergic reaction to Elidel: hives; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Stop using Elidel Cream and call your doctor at once if you have a serious side effect such as:

- severe burning of treated skin;
- new symptoms of viral skin infection (warts, unusual rash or skin lesions, blistering or oozing, burning pain or tingling);
- worsened skin symptoms;

- swollen glands, sore throat; or
- fever, chills, body aches, flu symptoms.

Less serious Elidel side effects may include:

- mild burning or warm feeling of treated skin;
- headache;
- cold symptoms such as stuffy nose, sneezing;
- swollen hair follicles;
- acne or warts;
- burning, stinging, tingling, or soreness of treated skin (especially during the first few days of treatment);
- upset stomach;
- muscle pain; or
- feeling more sensitive to hot or cold temperatures.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

See also:

Elidel side effects (in more detail)

What other drugs will affect Elidel?

Tell your doctor about all medications you use, and those you start or stop using during your treatment with Elidel Cream, especially:

- cimetidine (Tagamet).
- conivaptan (Vaprisol);
- nefazodone;
- an antibiotic such as clarithromycin (Biaxin), erythromycin (E.E.S., EryPed, Ery-Tab, Erythrocin, Pediazole), or telithromycin (Ketek);
- antifungal medication such as fluconazole (Diflucan), itraconazole (Sporanox), ketoconazole (Nizoral), posaconazole (Noxafil), or voriconazole (Vfend);
- heart or blood pressure medication such as diltiazem (Cardizem, Cartia, Dilacor, Diltia, Diltzac, Taztia, Tiazac) or verapamil (Calan, Covera, Isoptin, Verelan);
- the hepatitis C medications boceprevir (Victrelis) or telaprevir (Incivek); or

- HIV/AIDS medicine such as indinavir (Crixivan), nelfinavir (Viracept), ritonavir (Norvir, Kaletra), or saquinavir (Invirase).

This list is not complete. Other drugs may interact with Elidel, including prescription, over-the-counter, vitamin, and herbal products. Not all possible interactions are listed in this medication guide.

See also:

Elidel drug interactions (in more detail)

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use Elidel Cream only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

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