

## **Azelaic Acid 20% w/w Cream or Lotion (a-zeh-LAY-ik-AS-id)**

### **What is this medication used for**

Azelaic acid is used for the treatment of mild to moderate common acne (acne vulgaris). It belongs to a group of medications called anti-acne antibacterial agents. Azelaic acid works by getting rid of bacteria called *Propionibacterium acnes*, which plays an essential part in causing acne.

### **How to use this medication**

#### Adults and Adolescents 12 years old and above

Azelaic acid should be applied to the affected area twice a day (morning and evening) by gently rubbing the cream/lotion onto the skin. Wash and dry the whole area to be treated before applying the cream/lotion.

If your skin is very sensitive, apply the cream/lotion once a day in the evening during the first week of treatment then increase the number of applications to twice a day from the second week onwards.

The amount of cream/lotion you should use depends on the size of the affected area. Avoid using excessive amount of this product. Duration of use varies from person to person and depends on your acne condition when you start treatment. In general, you should see a distinct improvement after about 4 weeks of treatment. To get the best effect you may have to use this cream/lotion for several months. However, you should not use this cream/lotion for more than twelve months at any time.

Do not share the product with others even if they have similar signs and symptoms. Wash your hands thoroughly after using the product and avoid getting the cream/lotion into your eyes, mouth or nostrils. If it does come into contact with any of these areas, rinse it off immediately with plenty of water.

If you forget or miss an application, apply it as soon as you remember. If it is nearly time for the next application, skip the missed application and continue with next dose at the usual time.

### **Before you use this medication**

This cream/lotion should be avoided if you have a known history of allergy to azelaic acid or any of the other listed ingredients in the product.

There is limited experience with use of the active substance azelaic acid during pregnancy. If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, your doctor will decide whether you can still use azelaic acid.

### **Interactions with other medications**

Be sure to inform your doctor and/or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or plan to take other medications, nutritional supplements or herbal products.

### **Side effects**

Common side effects: burning, itching or abnormal redness of the skin at application site, scaling, pain, dryness and skin discolouration or irritation at the application site.

Less common side effects: greasy skin, acne or loss of skin colour, tingling, discomfort or swelling at the site of application.

Rare side effects: Cracking of the lips, blister formation, eczema, ulceration, allergic reaction. Rash and worsening of asthma in patients treated with azelaic acid has also been reported.

### **When to seek further medical advice**

Inform your doctor and/or pharmacist immediately if you experience any allergic symptoms (e.g. rashes, itchiness, difficulty in breathing or eye swelling) or serious side effects due to this medication.

Consult a doctor if you do not observe improvement in 1 month or if your condition worsens.

### **How should this medication be kept**

Keep out of reach and sight of children.

Store in a cool dry place below 30°C.

