

Dimethyl Sulfoxide (DMSO)

When some chemotherapy drugs get into the skin or leaks from the veins, the skin nearby is injured. Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) is medicine for your skin if this happens.

How do I take this medicine?

Liquid DMSO is used to treat this type of injury. Apply it to the skin in the area where chemotherapy drugs leaked. Do not take this medicine by mouth. Follow your doctor's instructions carefully.

- Apply the DMSO in a well-ventilated room with good airflow.
- Wear disposable gloves when applying DMSO.
- Soak a gauze pad with DMSO. Use it to pat gently the affected skin. Let it air-dry.
- Do not cover the skin with dressings or bandages.
- Do not apply DMSO to skin that isn't affected.
- Remove the gloves and throw them away.
- Wash your hands with soap and water right away. Dry them very well.

More Home Care Tips

- Keep using DMSO even if you see no change in the affected skin. It may take two to six weeks to work.
- The affected skin may heal faster if you do not scratch or rub the area.
- Use a mild soap when bathing and gently pat the area dry.
- If your health care team asks you to use ice or cold compresses at the affected area, follow the instructions exactly.
- If the affected area blisters or becomes very painful, stop using DMSO and call your doctor right away.

What if I miss a dose?

Apply the DMSO as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, return to your regular schedule. Do not increase the amount you use to make up for missing a dose.

Cautions

Store DMSO at room temperature (59-72 °F) in a dark place. Keep it in a tightly closed bottle.

DMSO catches fire easily. Keep it away from flames, heat, and sparks.

DMSO can make beer, wine, or hard liquor affect you more intensely or quickly than usual. Limit your alcohol use until you know how DMSO affects you. Stop drinking alcohol if you have an unusual reaction.

DMSO changes the way your skin absorbs lotions and other products. This could cause side effects. Ask your health care team before using other skin products or medicines in the affected area.

Common Side Effects

- Garlic, onion, or oyster smell on breath or skin, which may last a few days after stopping DMSO
- Itching or burning at the affected area
- Skin redness at the affected area
- Flaky, scaly, or dry skin

When to Call for Help

Call the clinic right away if any of the problems below happen at the affected area:

- Increased redness, pain, or swelling
- Increased red streaks along a vein
- Skin blistering
- Severe or troubling irritation

Call 911 or go the emergency room if any of these allergy signs happen:

- Skin rash, hives, or itching
- Trouble breathing
- Tightness in throat or chest
- Flushed or red skin, especially on face or neck
- Fast or irregular heartbeat
- Skin burning or peeling
- Joint or muscle ache

Questions?

Contact your cancer care team via MyChart or call _____.

In an emergency, call 911 or go to your closest emergency department.