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3 Title: Combination Clotrimazole/Betamethasone Dipropionate Cream Warning
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5 Introduced by: Steve Daveluy, MD, FAAD, for the Wayne County Delegation
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7 Original Author: Steve Daveluy, MD, FAAD
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9 Referred to: Reference Committee E
10
11 House Action: **APPROVE**
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14 Whereas, clotrimazole/betamethasone dipropionate cream is a combination of an anti-fungal cream and a
15 high-potency steroid that has been shown to be less effective, less safe and more expensive than single anti-fungal
16 creams, as well as being commonly misused by physicians, and
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18 Whereas, clotrimazole/betamethasone dipropionate is less effective than single agent antifungal creams, and
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20 Whereas, clotrimazole/betamethasone dipropionate cream carries a risk of causing persistent and recurrent
21 fungal infections in children¹, and
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23 Whereas, clotrimazole/betamethasone dipropionate is indicated for patients 12 years and over, but is often
24 prescribed in younger patients with over half the prescriptions written for patients under 4 years old², and
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26 Whereas, dermatologists, who are experts in skin disease, prescribed single anti-fungal creams, as opposed to
27 the combination cream, 96 percent of the time since they are more effective, safer and less expensive³, and
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29 Whereas, prescribers are often not aware that the combination cream contains a high-potency steroid,
30 increasing the risk of side effects including stretch marks, growth retardation, excess hair growth and treatment failure⁴,
31 and
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33 Whereas, the combination cream is more expensive than single anti-fungal topicals but it is less effective and the
34 treatment failures cause further treatment and additional expense⁵, and
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36 Whereas, the American Academy of Dermatology treatment guidelines for superficial fungal infections
37 recommend single agent anti-fungals as the first line therapy and caution regarding the use of the combination cream⁶;
38 therefore be it
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40 RESOLVED: That MSMS provide notice to practitioners in the state of Michigan regarding a recommendation
41 against prescribing combination clotrimazole/betamethasone dipropionate cream and lotion; and be it further
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43 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask our AMA to work with
44 the US Food and Drug Administration to review the safety and indications of the combination
45 clotrimazole/betamethasone dipropionate cream and lotion.
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48 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

¹ Alston SJ, Cohen BA, Braun, BA. Persistent and recurrent tinea corporis in children treated with combination antifungal/ corticosteroid agents. Pediatrics. 2003 Jan;111(1):201-3.

² leischer AB, Feldman SR. Prescription of high-potency corticosteroid agents and clotrimazole-betamethasone dipropionate by pediatricians. Clin Ther. 1999;21 :1725- 1731

³ Smith ES, Fleischer AB Jr, Feldman SR. Nondermatologists are more likely than dermatologists to prescribe antifungal/corticosteroid products: an analysis of office visits for cutaneous fungal infections, 1990-1994. J Am Acad Dermatol 1998;39:43-47

⁴ Greenberg HL, Shwayder TA, Bieszk N, Fivenson DP Clotrimazole/betamethasone dipropionate: a review of costs and complications in the treatment of common cutaneous fungal infections. Dermatol. 2002 Jan-Feb; 19(1):78-81.

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Drake LA, Dinehart SM, Farmer ER, et al. Guidelines of care for superficial mycotic infections of the skin: tinea corporis, tinea curis, tinea faciei, tinea manuum, and tinea pedis. J Am Acad Dermatol.1996;34 :282- 286