



## Chlorhexidine

Your patch tests indicate that you have a contact allergy to chlorhexidine. This means that you should avoid contact with this substance in the future.

- Chlorhexidine is an antiseptic chemical found in disinfection solutions, cosmetics, hand cleansers and wound cleansers.
- It is also added to eye drops, toothpastes and mouthwashes.
- Hospitals can use it to clean a patient's skin before surgery, to genital skin before gynaecological procedures and to wash out bladders if there is infection.
- It is added to some 'moisturising' skin washes.

Products that may be bought over the counter or prescribed by your doctor that contain chlorhexidine include:

- Chlorhexidine mouth wash (generic); Corsodyl<sup>®</sup>; Periogard<sup>®</sup> (mouth washes)
- Nystaform-HC<sup>®</sup> (mild steroid and antiseptic cream)
- Cepton<sup>®</sup>, Hibiscrub<sup>®</sup>, Hibbi liquid hand rub<sup>®</sup>, Hydrex<sup>®</sup>, Hibitane<sup>®</sup> obstetric cream (surgical scrubs/ pre-surgery skin preparation)
- Naseptin cream<sup>®</sup> (antibiotic cream for the nostrils)
- Eczemol<sup>®</sup> cream, Dermal<sup>®</sup> cream, Dermal 200<sup>®</sup>, Dermal 500<sup>®</sup> (antiseptic emollient washes)
- Instillagel<sup>®</sup>

This leaflet provides advice for people with eczema rashes (delayed allergy) due to chlorhexidine. Very rarely, people can have an rapid onset serious allergic reaction (immediate allergy) to chlorhexidine. These two kinds of allergy are usually unrelated.

**The list of products containing this allergen may not be complete and does not always include items that may be available outside the UK. Always check the ingredient listing on the product, package or package insert. Ingredient listings may change over time.**

