



VU PHARMACEUTICALS

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PRESCRIPTION NAME: Melasma Gel (Hydroquinone 8%, tretinoin 0.05%, fluocinolone acetonide 0.01%)

COMMON USES: Treat melasma

BEFORE USING THIS MEDICATION: Tell your provider if you have an allergy to tretinoin, hydroquinone, fluocinolone, or any other part of this drug. Tell your provider about the allergy and what symptoms you had (rash, hives, itching, shortness of breath, wheezing, cough, swelling of face, lips, tongue or throat or any other signs).

WHAT DOES THIS MEDICATION DO?: Contains 3 active ingredients, uniquely combined to treat dark spots associated with facial melasma. Hydroquinone is a depigmented agent that interrupts the formation and synthesis of melanin to help lighten skin. Tretinoin increases cell turnover rate, which helps exfoliate the skin. Fluocinolone is a mild corticosteroid that reduces inflammation.

HOW TO APPLY THIS MEDICATION: Use this medication as instructed by your provider. Cleanse face prior to application of cream. Apply a pea size amount of cream evenly to entire face (or as directed) at night. Do NOT “spot” treat one area. Treatment should be limited to 8 weeks.

COMMON SIDE EFFECTS: You should expect some mild to moderate redness, dryness, burning, itching, and peeling with use, especially during the initial weeks of use. This typically improves over time. This medication may lighten normal skin color. This medication may make your skin more sensitive to sunlight so you may get sunburned more easily. Use of other skin products while using this medication may cause more irritation.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Advised your provider of all medication you are taking to avoid any reactions.
- If you have an allergy to tretinoin, fluocinolone, or hydroquinone or other part of this medication, tell your provider.
- Tell your provider if you are taking any medications that may make your skin more sensitive to light.
- Do not apply to cuts, scrapes, irritated, sunburned or chapped skin
- Always wear a sunscreen with Broad Spectrum SPF 30 daily in the morning when using this medication. Do not apply to sunburned skin.
- You may skip a night if your skin becomes red or irritated
- Stop application 1 week prior to any waxing procedures and request low heat wax.
- If you develop a gradual blue-black darkening of your skin, stop using product immediately and contact provider.
- Stop application if you become pregnant or are breastfeeding.
- Do not swallow this medication. If swallowed call provider or poison control center immediately.

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS: Even though it may be rare, some patients may have very bad and sometimes serious side effects when taking a medication. Tell your provider if you have any of the following signs or symptoms of an allergic reaction such as a rash, hives, swelling, blistering, wheezing, tightness in the chest or throat, trouble breathing or swallowing, unusual hoarseness, swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat. This medication contains a corticosteroid medicine as one of its active components. Corticosteroids have been associated with elevated blood sugars, weakening of your adrenal gland, and Cushing’s disease, eye problems, increased calcium levels. Signs of high blood sugar include confusion, feeling sleepy, more thirst, hunger, passing urine more often, flushing, fast breathing, or breath that smells like fruit. Signs of weak adrenal gland includes very bad upset stomach, throwing up, dizziness muscle weakness, feeling very tired, mood changes, or weight loss. Signs of Cushing’s disease include weight gain in the upper back or belly, moon face, very bad headaches, or slow wound healing. This medication may affect growth in children and teens in some cases of long-term use. Avoid use around the eyes as this may be associated with increased eye pressure/eye problems. Symptoms of this include change in vision, eye pain, or bad eye irritation. Signs of increased calcium levels include weakness, confusion, fatigue, headaches, upset stomach, constipation, bone pain.

If you have any questions, please call our office at 412-429-2570.