

Don't sweat it: New topical formulation effective for hyperhidrosis

By Ilya Petrou, M.D.
December 1, 2008

St. Louis — Patients treated with a new topical formulation consisting of 15 percent aluminum chloride in a 2 percent salicylic acid gel base (Hydrosal, Valeo Pharma) demonstrate significant improvement from symptoms of axillary hyperhidrosis and report a high tolerability, according to the results of a recent study.

The 12-week, single-center, open-label study included 30 patients with moderate-to-severe primary axillary hyperhidrosis, who had a baseline score of 3 to 4 on the Hyperhidrosis Disease Severity Scale (HDSS).

Participants applied Hydrosal bilaterally in the axillae once nightly for a week and then twice weekly for the duration of the study.

More than 75 percent of patients were either somewhat or very satisfied with treatment of their axillary hyperhidrosis compared to baseline. The mean HDSS scores of the patients decreased from 3.3 at baseline to 2.12 by week 12 with Hydrosal, indicating that patients tolerated the formulation very well.

"Prescription-strength formulations of 20 percent aluminum chloride in aqueous alcohol (Drysol, Person & Covey) can often be too irritating for patients and difficult for them to tolerate.

"In a recent study, 20 percent aluminum chloride in a 4 percent salicylic acid gel base proved to have an excellent efficacy and safety, and was much more accepted and tolerated by patients.

"This new formulation found in Hydrosal seems to do even better in terms of tolerability by patients, while keeping up a good level of effectiveness," says Dee Anna Glaser, M.D., professor and vice chairman, department of dermatology, Saint Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis.



Dr. Glaser

Tolerability

Adverse events that can occur with topical preparations include redness, stinging, itching, fissuring and pain and occur at a much higher incidence with alcohol-based preparations and/or higher concentrations of aluminum chloride, such as Drysol, when compared to Hydrosal.

Topical products should ideally be applied to a dry area at night and should not be washed off until the next morning.

Botox

"Botox (Allergan) is an effective treatment consisting of a one-time injection that, on average, lasts for over seven months and is a favored treatment by my patients.

"However, for those patients that shy away from injections, topical therapies remain a good option of treatment," Dr. Glaser tells *Dermatology Times*.

According to Dr. Glaser, the two therapies that really make sense when the pros and cons are weighed are either Botox or topical approaches.

Disclosure: This study was funded by an unrestricted educational grant from Valeo Pharma.