

DTB CME/CPD Answers



Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin

Ivermectin cream for rosacea

Question 1

Mrs RP, a 42-year-old retail manager, has a 7-year history of papulopustular rosacea. What is the estimated incidence of rosacea in general practice in the UK?

- a. 1.7 per 1,000 person-years
- b. 5.6 per 1,000 person-years
- c. 9.2 per 1,000 person-years
- d. 16.5 per 1,000 person-years
- e. 23.0 per 1,000 person-years

Answer: a. Rosacea has an estimated incidence of 1.7 per 1,000 person-years in general practice in the UK.

Question 2

Ivermectin 1% cream is licensed for the treatment of inflammatory lesions of papulopustular rosacea in adults. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- a. The mechanism of action in rosacea may result from its parasitocidal effect on the *Sarcoptes* mite
- b. Ivermectin has α_2 -adrenergic receptor agonist activity
- c. Ivermectin cream is applied twice daily for up to 3 months
- d. Ivermectin represents an environmental hazard as it is toxic to invertebrates
- e. Cosmetics should not be applied when using ivermectin cream for papulopustular rosacea

Answer: d. Ivermectin is very toxic to invertebrates and represents an environmental hazard. Although, the Summary of Product Characteristics recommends taking care to prevent environmental contamination, in particular of water, no specific practical guidance is given.

Question 3

Mrs RP has read about ivermectin 1% cream and asks her doctor whether she might benefit from using it. In two double-blind randomised vehicle-controlled trials what was the change in inflammatory lesion count with ivermectin compared with placebo?

- a. -2
- b. -8
- c. -23
- d. -25
- e. -31

Answer: b. The mean difference between ivermectin and vehicle was -8 in both studies ($p < 0.001$ vs. vehicle for both trials) from a baseline count of 31 and 33 lesions.

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Question 4

Mrs RP asks her doctor about the potential adverse effects of ivermectin 1% cream. Which one of following unwanted effects was commonly reported (occurring in up to 1% of patients) in clinical trials?

- a. Application site oedema
- b. Exfoliation
- c. Urticaria
- d. Application site discolouration
- e. Skin burning sensation

Answer: e. The most commonly reported unwanted effects in clinical trials (occurring in up to 1% of patients) were skin burning sensation, skin irritation, and itchy and dry skin.

Question 5

In a single-blind randomised controlled trial, ivermectin was compared with metronidazole 0.75% cream in adults with moderate or severe papulopustular rosacea. What was the absolute difference in the primary outcome of percentage change in inflammatory lesion count between ivermectin and metronidazole?

- a. 1%
- b. 6%
- c. 9%
- d. 15%
- e. 23%

Answer: c. Ivermectin produced a statistically significant difference in the primary outcome measure of the percentage change in inflammatory lesion counts from baseline (mean lesion count of 33) to week 16 (reduction of 83% with ivermectin vs. 74% with metronidazole, $p < 0.001$).