

5 Antipsoriatic nail polish

Description

The involvement of the finger nails and toe nails in the psoriasis syndrome is widespread. According to literature references, up to 50 % of all
10 psoriasis patients additionally show changes to the nails in addition to the characteristic skin symptoms. The nail changes are found more frequently on the fingers than on the toes and are identified in the order of their frequency by the following symptoms:

15 Pitting (punctate or irregularly shaped depressions arranged on the surface of the body of the nail in a certain pattern or alternatively irregularly), discoloration of the nail bed, onycholysis (detachment of the body of the nail from the nail bed), subungual keratosis or anomalies of the body of the nail.

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For treatment of the nails affected by psoriasis, the following four methods were used until now, but without sweeping success, in addition to PUVA phototherapy:

25 One treatment method, the systemic method, consists in administering methotrexate, retinoids or cyclosporin A orally. This necessitates a long-term treatment, which according to experience can lead to intoxication.

30 Another method consists in injecting intralesional corticosteroids. This method is naturally very painful, so that the patients are only initially ready to cooperate, but later stay away from treatment.

35 With a further method of surgically removing the affected nails, good treatment results can indeed be achieved, but it is to be considered here whether intervention really pays, with a possible recurrence time of one week after regeneration of the body of the nail.

40 A fourth, yet gentle, method consists in treating the nails locally with specific, antipsoriatic substances such as dithranol, vitamin D analogs or corticosteroids. In this context, all sorts of treatment methods have been



attempted. Thus in a combined treatment the nails are first treated with solutions of the antipsoriatic substances and cream dressings were in each case applied at night. Even this treatment method is naturally very unpleasant and psychologically distressing for the patient. Firstly, the treatment of the nails with solutions is necessary several times daily. On the other hand, the treated nails must be covered with dressings at night.

This leads to the results that the treatment of the patients, usually for many months, is frequently not seen through, but on the contrary they become disheartened and negligent and thus the therapeutic result does not materialize. The success of treatment in this method is furthermore adversely affected in that the solutions and creams are usually miscible with water or are hydrophilic and can therefore be removed again from the nail surface or dissolved out of the nail on washing, bathing and showering and thus consequently then have to be reapplied again. As a result of this, the treatment with these topical agents is ineffective and moreover highly uneconomical.

High hopes have therefore been placed in another method, namely in the treatment of the affected nails with a 50:50 mixture of commercially available corticosteroid-containing lotions, creams or ointments with commercially available clear cosmetic varnishes (US Patent 4,250,164). This method, however, although already known for a long time, has not generally found its way into therapy since a satisfactory result from these - naturally physically unstable - mixtures did not appear, presumably for lack of sufficient bioavailability of the active compound from the solid system present after the drying of the mixture.

Therefore many cases, in particular the severe cases, have been treated as before using the surgical method described above or using intralesional injections or using combined solution and cream therapy.

WO 97/43644 discloses a topical formulation suitable for the treatment of nail psoriasis comprising at least one glucocorticoid, at least one spreading solvent, at least one readily volatile solvent and a film-forming agent. This topical formulation has the disadvantage that a spreading solvent is necessary. This additional spreading solvent increases the price of the formulation and since it is not clear if this spreading solvent is

physiologically acceptable, the approval of the formulation becomes more complicated or even impossible.

- The invention aims to make available a glucocorticoid-containing formulation which does not have the disadvantages described above or only has them to a minor extent. In particular, the formulation should guarantee a good penetration of the nail by the glucocorticoid and thus a good bioavailability though a water-insoluble film-forming agent is used.
- 10 The invention further aims to make available a glucocorticoid formulation, which does guarantee a good penetration of the nail by the glucocorticoid and thus a good bioavailability, comprising no additional spreading or penetration promoting solvent or substance.
- 15 The object is achieved by the nail polish according to the invention, comprising one or more glucocorticoids, a physiologically tolerable, preferably readily volatile, solvent or solvent mixture and one or more water-insoluble film-forming agents.
- 20 Antipsoriatic glucocorticoids are, for example: alclometasone dipropionate, amcinonide, beclomethasone dipropionate, bendacort, betamethasone benzoate, betamethasone dipropionate, betamethasone valerate, budesonide, chlorquinaldol, clioquinol, clobetasol propionate, clobetasone butyrate, desonide, desoximetasone, dexamethasone, dichlorisone, diflorasone diacetate, diflucortolone valerate, difluprednate, fluazacort, 25 flucinolone acetonide, flucolorolone acetonide, fludroxycortide, flumethasone pivalate, fluocinolone acetonide, fluocinonide, fluocortolone, fluorometholone, flupamesone, fluprednidene, fluprednidene acetate, flurandrenolide, halcinonide, halometasone, hydrocortamate, 30 hydrocortisone butyrate, methylprednisolone aceponate, mometasone furoate, prednicarbate, prednisolone, prednisone, tixocortol, triamcinolone acetonide.

35 The glucocorticosteroids can be present either as free alcohols or in the form of their esters.

Suitable water-insoluble film-forming agents are, for example, substances based on cellulose such as cellulose nitrate or ethylcellulose or physiologically acceptable polymers such as are customary, for example,

- in cosmetics. Mention may be made, for example, of poly(vinyl acetate), and partially hydrolyzed poly(vinyl acetate), copolymers of vinyl acetate on the one hand and acrylic acid or crotonic acid or monoalkyl maleate on the other hand, ternary copolymers of vinyl acetate on the one hand and crotonic acid and vinyl neodecanoate, or crotonic acid and vinyl propionate on the other hand, copolymers of methyl vinyl ether and monoalkyl maleates, in particular as monobutyl maleate, copolymers of fatty acid vinyl esters and acrylic acid or methacrylic acid, copolymers of N-vinylpyrrolidone, methacrylic acid and alkyl methacrylates, copolymers of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid or alkyl acrylates or alkyl methacrylates, in particular containing quaternary ammonium groups, or polymers, copolymers or mixtures comprising ethyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate or trimethylammonioethyl methacrylate chloride or polyvinyl acetals and polyvinyl butyrals, alkyl-substituted poly-N-vinylpyrrolidone, alkyl esters of copolymers of olefins and maleic anhydride, reaction products of colophony with acrylic acid and also benzoin. In the esters, the alkyl radicals are usually short-chain and mostly do not have more than four carbon atoms.
- Suitable physiologically acceptable solvents are substances such as hydrocarbons, halogenated hydrocarbons, alcohols, ethers, ketones and esters which are customary in cosmetics, in particular acetate esters of monohydric alcohols such as ethyl acetate and butyl acetate, optionally as a mixture with aromatic hydrocarbons such as toluene and/or alcohols such as ethanol or isopropanol.

As is known, the combination of the solvents is of crucial importance for the drying time, spreading ability and other important properties of the varnish or of the varnish film. The solvent system preferably consists of an optimal mixture of low-boiling components (= solvents having a boiling point up to 100°C) and medium-boiling components (= solvents having a boiling point up to 150°C), optionally with a small proportion of high-boiling components (= solvents having a boiling point up to 200°C).

- Readily volatile solvents are understood as meaning compounds which have a boiling point which is below 80°C.

The nail polishes according to the invention can furthermore contain additives customary in cosmetics, such as plasticizers based on phthalate

or camphor, colorants or color pigments, pearl luster agents, sedimentation retardants, sulfonamide resins, silicates, aromatic substances, lanolin derivatives, sunscreens such as 2-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzophenone, antimicrobial substances and substances having keratolytic and/or
5 keratoplastic action, such as ammonium sulfite, esters and salts of thioglycolic acid, urea, allantoin, enzymes and salicylic acid.

Using the nail polish according to the invention, a drastic cure can be achieved in the treatment of psoriatic nails, the nail usually growing again
10 without deformation. In view of the poor therapeutic experiences until now, this is an extremely important finding.

The nail polish according to the invention is also suitable for prophylactic use against psoriatic nails, a sufficiently high active compound depot being
15 achieved in the nail such that a possible recurrence does not break out.

The content of active compound in the nail polish according to the invention is dependent on the structure of each active compound and thus on its release from the varnish film, its penetration behavior in the nail and
20 its potency.

In the nail polish according to the invention, i.e. the solvent-containing use form, the active compound is in general contained in an amount from 0.5 to 20, preferably 2 to 15, percent by weight. The minimum content of active
25 compound in the medicinal nail polishes, i.e. those for treatment, is preferably 8 percent by weight; the nail polishes used for prophylaxis preferably contain 1 to 4 percent by weight of active compound.

Colored or pigmented nail polishes have the advantage, for example, that
30 the preparation according to the invention can be tailored to the esthetic perception of the patient.

The nail polish is prepared in a customary manner by mixing together the individual components and - if necessary - further processing tailored to
35 the respective preparation.

The nail polish according to the invention has the following composition:

Example 1

Clobetasol-17-propionate	8.0 %
50 % strength solution of a copolymer of methyl vinyl ether and monobutyl maleate in isopropyl alcohol	30.0 %
Isopropyl alcohol	31.0 %
Ethyl acetate	31.0 %

The percentage quantitative data are based on the weight.

- 5 The nail polish is prepared by dissolving the various components in the solvents.

Example 2

Desoximetasone	5.0 %
Ethyl acrylate/methyl methacrylate/trimethylammonioethyl methacrylate chloride in a molar ratio of 1:2:0.2 (EUDRAGIT® RL 100)	12.0 %
Ethanol 96 %	60.0 %
Ethyl acetate	13.0 %
Butyl acetate	10.0 %

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Example 3

Betamethasone dipropionate	5.0 %
Ethylcellulose	11.0 %
Ethyl acetate	30.0 %
Butyl acetate	34.0 %
Ethanol 96 %	20.0 %

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Example 4

Prednicarbate	7.5 %
Polyvinyl butyral	4.7 %
Cellulose nitrate	4.3 %
Dibutyl phthalate	0.6 %

Ethyl acetate	10.0 %
Ethanol 96 %	72.9 %

Example 5

Halcinonide	2.0 %
Methacrylic acid/ethyl acrylate 1:1 copolymer	6.5 %
Ethanol 96 %	71.5 %
Ethyl acetate	20.0 %

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The action of the nail polish according to the invention is demonstrated in permeation tests on cowhorn platelets and in treatment experiments on subjects. The permeation test on cowhorn platelets allows the release of
 10 an active compound from a certain preparation and the subsequent permeation through keratin material to be tested.

At present, there are still no topical preparations known for the treatment of nail psoriasis with glucocorticoids from which the active compound is
 15 released in sufficient amount, penetrates into the nails and thus can act in a therapeutic dose on the underlying matrix or the nail bed.

As a control example,

clobetasol-17-propionate 8.0% is dissolved
 in isopropyl alcohol 92.0%.

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A) Permeation test on cowhorn platelets

The measurement of the active compound permeation is carried out by means of time-resolved ATR technique (time-resolved infrared
 25 attenuated total reflection - see Th. M. Bayerl et al.; J. Invest. Dermatol. 105:291-295,1995):

100 µl of the test preparation (test preparation or control example) are applied to a defined area on the top of a cowhorn platelet of 0.5 mm
 30 thickness. After a drying time of 15 minutes, the cowhorn platelet with

the varnish layer was applied to the measuring crystal and pressed on by an external device. The contact pressure and the penetration depth of the measuring beam were selected here such that the IR spectrum did not record any portions of the cowhorn platelet. Spectra of the varnish layer were recorded for 48 hours and the decrease in the active compound bands which is to be attributed to the penetration of the active compound into the keratin material was investigated.

It is seen here that the characteristic band of clobetasol-17-propionate at 1660 cm^{-1} decreases to approximately 60 % of the starting value in the clear varnish film of the nail polish according to the invention in the measurement period of 48 hours, while the active compound precipitates almost quantitatively from the control example on evaporating the solvent and is thus no longer available for penetration into the keratin material.

Moreover, it was possible to detect clobetasol-17-propionate qualitatively on the back of the cowhorn platelet employed after the application of the nail polish according to the invention, while after the application of the control preparation it was not possible to produce this detection.

Although in EP 0 226 984 similar penetration properties of certain antimycotic hydroxypyridone compounds from solid varnish films are described, this is nevertheless a surprising finding, since it was not to be foreseen that glucocorticoids, which constitute a bulky, rigid cyclopentanoperhydrophenanthrene four-ring system, are more bioavailable from the water-insoluble solid system present after the drying of the varnish preparation and permeate into or through the keratin material better than from the isopropanolic solution.

B) Activity testing

1) The antipsoriatic properties of the nail polish according to the invention have been tested on 2 people with long-standing two-handed thumb nail psoriasis. A daily treatment of the affected nails for only four months with the nail polish according to the invention according to Example 1 led to the growing out of symptom-free new nail plates.

- 2) The antipsoriatic properties of the nail polish according to the invention have been tested on 14 people with nail psoriasis. A treatment two times a week of the affected nails for only six months with the nail polish according to the invention according to Example 1
- 5 led to a lasting improvement of the nail plates or to the growing out of symptom-free new nail plates in 86% of the cases (12 people out of 14).



Patent Claims:

1. A nail polish comprising at least one glucocorticoid, at least one physiologically acceptable solvent and at least one water-insoluble film-forming agent.
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2. A nail polish as claimed in claim 1, which comprises, as a glucocorticoid, alclometasone dipropionate, amcinonide, beclomethasone dipropionate, bendacort, betamethasone benzoate, 10 betamethasone dipropionate, betamethasone valerate, budesonide, chlorquinaldol, clioquinol, clobetasol propionate, clobetasone butyrate, desonide, desoximetasone, dexamethasone, dichlorisone, diflorasone diacetate, diflucortolone valerate, difluprednate, fluazacort, flucinolone acetonide, fluclorolone acetonide, fludroxycortide, flumethasone pivalate, 15 fluocinolone acetonide, fluocinonide, fluocortolone, fluorometholone, flupamesone, fluprednidene, fluprednidene acetate, flurandrenolide, halcinonide, halometasone, hydrocortamate, hydrocortisone butyrate, methylprednisolone aceponate, mometasone furoate, prednicarbate, prednisolone, prednisone, tixocortol, 20 triamcinolone acetonide.
3. A nail polish as claimed in one or more of claims 1 and 2, which comprises, as an active compound, clobetasol propionate, desoximetasone, betamethasone dipropionate, prednicarbate or 25 halcinonide.
4. A nail polish as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 3, which comprises the active compound or the active compounds in a total concentration of 0.5 % to 20 %, based on the total weight of the 30 formulation.
5. A nail polish as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4, which comprises the active compound or the active compounds in a total concentration of 2 % to 15 %, based on the total weight of the 35 formulation.
6. A nail polish as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 5, which comprises, as a water-insoluble film-forming agent, a copolymer of methyl vinyl ether and monobutyl maleate; ethyl acrylate/methyl



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methacrylate/trimethylammonioethyl methacrylate chloride in a molar ratio of 1:2:0.2; ethyl cellulose; polyvinyl butyral, cellulose nitrate or methacrylic acid/ethyl acrylate copolymer.

- 5 7. A process for the production of a nail polish as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 6, which comprises mixing a water-insoluble film-forming agent with a glucocorticoid, and optionally other components customary for the production of nail polish.
- 10 8. The use of the nail polish as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 7 as a pharmaceutical against nail psoriasis.

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