Description

This invention relates to methods for the treatment of skin conditions associated with excess sebum production as well as to cosmetic compositions for use in such treatment.

US-A-3 639 625 and CA-A-849491 disclose topical compositions containing lithium succinate for the treatment of various skin diseases. In particular, it is stated that the compositions may be useful in the treatment of exfoliative dermatitis, vaginal pruritis, heat rash such as diaper rash, contact dermatitis, poison ivy, acne vulgaris, dry skin conditions, burns and abrasions.

I have now found that a variety of topically acceptable lithium salts will reduce the oiliness of the skin surface, apparently due to a reduction in sebum formation. This discovery is particularly surprising in view of the reference in US-A-3 639 625 to the treatment of dry skin conditions. I have also found that seborrheic dermatitis responds favourably to the application of lithium salts. Moreover, the application of lithium salts to the scalp has been found to give an anti-dandruff effect, dandruff being a condition commonly associated with seborrheic dermatitis.

Thus, in one aspect the invention is the use of a topically acceptable lithium salt for the manufacture of a medicament for use in the topical treatment of seborrheic dermatitis, other than seborrheic dermatitis so extensive as to be classifiable as exfoliative dermatitis.

The compositions of the invention may be applied topically to regions of the skin associated with excess sebum production, eg oily skin, seborrheic dermatitis and dandruff. Skin regions susceptible to seborrheic dermatitis may also have applied thereto the compositions according to the invention even when sebum secretion is not excessive.

The compositions of the invention suitably comprise a cosmetic base and it is particularly preferred that the base comprises a cosmetic cleansing composition such as a soap, shampoo or cleansing lotion. Thus, the compositions may take the form of solid or liquid soaps or shampoos (including hair shampoos) containing the lithium salt and one or more natural or synthetic surfactants optionally together with one or more conventional soap or shampoo additives such as perfumes and colouring agents.

Other lithium-containing compositions may also be used in the method according to the invention and examples of such compositions include lipsticks, ointments, creams, solutions, lotions, emulsions, suspensions and powders.

Any topically acceptable lithium salt may be used according to the invention since it is believed that the nature of the anion in the salt is not important. Examples of such salts include lithium chloride, succinate, citrate, acetylsalicylate and orotate.

The compositions for use according to the invention conveniently contain from 0.001 to 30%, and preferably from 1 to 10%, by weight of lithium ions.

The following Examples serve to illustrate compositions which may be used in the method according to the invention (all percentages are by weight):-

Example 1 - Ointment

Wool alcohols ointment base (BP)	92%
Lithium succinate	8%

Example 2 - Cream

Aqueous cream base	96%
Lithium citrate	4%

Example 3 - Cosmetic Night Cream

Cosmetic night cream base	98%
Lithium chloride	2%

Example 4 - Hair Shampoo

Shampoo base	95%
Lithium succinate	5%

Example 5 - Soap

Soap base	97%
Lithium orotate	3%

Example 6 - Lipstick

Lipstick base	90%
Lithium succinate	10%

Claims

1. The use of a topically acceptable lithium salt for the manufacture of a medicament for use in the topical treatment of seborrheic dermatitis, other than seborrheic dermatitis so extensive as to be classifiable as exfoliative dermatitis.

2. Use as claimed in claim 1 for the manufacture of a composition comprising from 0.001 to 30% by

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2. Use as claimed in claim 1 for the manufacture of a composition comprising from 0.001 to 30% by

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weight of lithium ions.

3. Use as claimed in claim 2 for the manufacture of a composition comprising from 1 to 10% by weight of lithium ions.

4. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 of a lithium salt selected from lithium chloride, lithium citrate, lithium acetylsalicylate, lithium orotate and lithium succinate.

5. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 for the manufacture of said medicament in the form of a cosmetic cleansing composition.

6. Use as claimed in claim 5 for the manufacture of said medicament in the form of a soap or cleansing lotion.

7. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 for the manufacture of said medicament in the form of a lipstick, cream, ointment, solution, lotion, emulsion, suspension or powder.

Revendications

1. Utilisation d'un sel de lithium compatible par voie topique pour la fabrication d'un médicament destiné à l'emploi en vue du traitement topique de la dermatite séborrhéique autre que la dermatite séborrhéique grave au point de se classer parmi les dermatites exfoliatives ou exfoliatrices.

2. Utilisation suivant la revendication 1 pour la fabrication d'une composition comprenant de 0,001 à 30% en poids d'ions lithium.

3. Utilisation suivant la revendication 2, pour la fabrication d'une composition comprenant de 1 à 10% en poids d'ions lithium.

4. Utilisation suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, d'un sel de lithium choisi parmi le chlorure de lithium, le citrate de lithium, l'acétylsalicylate de lithium, l'orotate de lithium et le succinate de lithium.

5. Utilisation suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, pour la fabrication du médicament précité, sous la forme d'une composition de nettoyage cosmétique.

6. Utilisation suivant la revendication 5, pour la fabrication du médicament précité sous la forme d'une lotion de nettoyage ou d'un savon.

7. Utilisation suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, pour la fabrication du médicament précité sous la forme d'un bâton de rouge à lèvres, d'une crème, d'une pommade, d'une solution, d'une lotion, d'une émulsion, d'une suspension ou d'une poudre.

Ansprüche

1. Verwendung eines topisch verträglichen Lithiumsalzes zur Herstellung eines Arzneimittels zur Verwendung bei der topischen Behandlung von Dermatitis seborrhoica, anders als Dermatitis seborrhoica, die so weit ausgedehnt ist, daß sie als Dermatitis exfoliativa klassizifierbar ist.

2. Verwendung nach Anspruch 1 zur Herstellung eines Mittels, welches 0,001 bis 30 Gew.-% Lithiumionen umfaßt.

3. Verwendung nach Anspruch 2 zur Herstellung eines Mittels, welches 1 bis 10 Gew.-% Lithiumionen umfaßt.

4. Verwendung nach einem der Ansprüche 1-3 eines Lithiumsalzes,ausgewählt unter Lithiumchlorid,

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Lithiumcitrat, Lithiumacetylsalicylat, Lithiumorotat und Lithiumsuccinat.

5. Verwendung nach einem der Ansprüche 1-4 zur Herstellung des Arzneimittels in Form eines kosmetischen Reinigungsmittels.

6. Verwendung nach Anspruch 5 zur Herstellung des Arzneimittels in Form einer Seife oder einer Reinigungslotion.

7. Verwendung nach einem der Ansprüche 1-5 zur Herstellung des Arzneimittels in Form eines Lippenstifts, einer Creme, einer Salbe, einer Lösung, einer Lotion, einer Emulsion, einer Suspension oder eines Pulvers.