any spread of HSV to individuals not carrying the virus.

The applicant company has therefore developed a film-forming composition enabling the formation of a film which forms an effective barrier with respect to the propagation of the herpes virus. Furthermore, the composition according to the invention has the advantage of being impermeable to infectious agents.

The film thus obtained makes it possible both to protect the lesion against intrusion of bacteria, thus preventing the risk of superinfection, and to avoid the propagation of the herpes virus responsible for the lesion to healthy individuals.

Thus, one aspect of the present invention relates to a topical film-forming composition comprising, in a pharmaceutically acceptable medium:

- 5% to 30% by weight, preferably 8% to 20% by weight, of ethylcellulose;
- 0.1% to 20% by weight, preferably 2% to 12% by weight, of an auxiliary film-forming agent;
- 0.1% to 5% by weight, preferably 0.5% to 2% by weight, of one or more triacids, at least one of which is boric acid; and
- 60% to 95% by weight, preferably 65% to 85% by weight, of an organic solvent,

the percentages being expressed by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

The film obtained with the compositions according to the invention is flexible and comfortable and does not cause, in particular, any discomfort or any foreign body sensation when it applied to the area to be treated.

Additives

The composition according to the invention may comprise one or more pharmaceutically acceptable additives, for instance fragrances, flavorings, dyes, pigments, matting agents, rheological agents, preservatives, depigmenting agents, moisturizing agents, sunscreens and restructuring agents.

Active agents

In one particular embodiment, the composition according to the present invention does not contain any pharmaceutically active agents.

This is because the inventors have observed, surprisingly, that a film formed by applying a composition according to the invention to an area of skin or of mucous membrane which has a herpetic eruption enables the treatment thereof, even and especially when the composition according to the invention does not contain any pharmaceutically active agent.

Use of the composition

In another aspect, there is provided the composition as defined herein, for use in treating herpes, in particular, herpes labialis.

In yet another aspect, there is provided the use of a composition as defined herein in the manufacture of a medicament for treating herpes, in particular, herpes labialis.

According to one particular embodiment, the subject of the invention is the composition as previously defined, for use thereof in a method for treating herpes, in particular herpes labialis.

The subject of the invention is also, according to another embodiment, the composition as previously defined, for use thereof in a method for healing wounds caused by the herpes virus, on the skin or the mucous membranes.

By applying the composition according to the invention to a herpetic eruption as soon as the first warning