Questran in Aquaphor Ointment for Diaper Rash

What is Diaper Rash?

In general, diaper rash is any redness or rash in the diaper area. The rash is often caused by long exposure of the skin to irritating substances in urine and feces. Prolonged exposure to wetness can contribute to skin breakdown. Less common causes include bacterial and fungal infection, allergic reactions, and chafing/rubbing. A combination of these factors is always possible.

How is diaper rash treated?

Many general measures are taken in the treatment of diaper rash. Goals of treatment include keeping the skin free of irritation from urine or feces and keeping the skin dry, thus minimizing discomfort to your infant. Change your baby’s diapers as soon as they get wet. Leave the diaper off during naptime to help keep the skin dry. Wash your baby’s skin with water and a gentle soap like Cetaphil after each diaper change if possible or at least twice a day.

Creams and ointment used in the treatment of diaper rash commonly provide a protective barrier to the skin and help soothe irritation. Over the counter products that achieve this include Desitin, Aquaphor, and Petroleum Jelly (i.e. Vaseline®). Occasionally your doctor will prescribe a steroid cream when the rash is severe enough to help reduce the redness and swelling. If a bacterial or fungal cause is discovered, an antibacterial or antifungal agent may be prescribed.

Why has Questran in Aquaphor been prescribed for your infant?

When excoriation or irritation by stool causes your baby’s diaper rash, Questran in Aquaphor is a very effective treatment. This ointment alleviates skin irritation caused by substances present in stool called bile acids. Questran, or cholestyramine, works by exchanging bile acids for chloride ions. This exchange binds the bile acids from the skin and removes their ability to cause irritation. Aquaphor is an ointment that has the unique ability to absorb its own weight in water. As a result of this, it pulls water away from your baby’s skin, thus allowing the skin to dry. The combination of the two most often brings resolution of the rash in about 3 days.

How to use Questran in Aquaphor:

The best results with this medication appear when it is applied after diaper changes to clean and dry skin. Because cholestyramine is a resin and is not absorbed into the body, Questran in Aquaphor can even be applied to cracked skin. A small amount is all that is necessary to treat the rash. Simply apply a thin layer to the affected area. You should not need to apply anything else to the skin while using this medication unless directed by your doctor. As before, follow the general measures of keeping the skin dry, clean, and allowing it to breathe while in diapers.

Side Effects:

No significant side effects have been reported with this medication.