

Polytar Scalp Shampoo

Coal tar solution 4%

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start using this medicine because it contains important information for you. This medicine is available without prescription. However, you still need to read carefully to get the best results from it.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet:

1. What Polytar Scalp Shampoo is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you use Polytar Scalp Shampoo
3. How to use Polytar Scalp Shampoo
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Polytar Scalp Shampoo
6. Content of this pack and other information

1. What Polytar Scalp Shampoo is and what it is used for

Polytar Scalp Shampoo is a shampoo containing the active ingredient coal tar. This is a thick, heavy oil which can reduce scales, inflammation and itchiness.

Polytar Scalp Shampoo is used to treat scalp conditions such as psoriasis (thickened patches of inflamed, red skin, often covered by silvery scales), seborrheic dermatitis (red, scaly, itchy scalp), eczema (itchy skin rash), itchiness and scaling due to these conditions and dandruff.

2. What you need to know before you use Polytar Scalp Shampoo



Do not use Polytar Scalp Shampoo:

- If you **have ever had an allergic reaction to coal tar, or any of the ingredients** (listed in Section 6).
- **On infected open or damaged skin, or pus-filled blisters** (pustules).
- If you are under 12 years.



Take care with this medicine

- Polytar Scalp Shampoo may cause irritation if in contact with sensitive areas, such as **broken or inflamed skin**. **Stop** using Polytar Scalp Shampoo if irritation develops.
- **Avoid contact with the eyes.** If it gets in your eyes, rinse with clean water.
- Avoid exposure to **strong sunlight or sun beds**. If exposure cannot be avoided, wear protective clothing and sunscreen.
- **Can stain skin or clothes** and can rarely cause a temporary change in hair colour.
- **Do not smoke or go near naked flames - risk of severe burns.** Fabric (clothing, bedding, dressings etc) that has been in contact with this product burns more easily and is a serious fire hazard. Washing clothing and bedding may reduce product build-up but not totally remove it.



If you are taking other medicines:

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist **before using this medicine** if you are taking any **prescribed medicines** particularly ones that may make you more sensitive to sunlight such as thiazides (water tablets), some antibiotics (e.g. tetracyclines) and tranquilizers (e.g. phenothiazines).



Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Talk to your doctor before using this product if you are **pregnant or breast feeding**. Do not use this medicine if you are in the first trimester of pregnancy. If used during breast feeding (after consultation with your doctor), make sure all coal tar is washed off the breast before feeding.



Important information about some of the ingredients

Polytar Scalp Shampoo contains 1g benzyl alcohol per 100g of shampoo. Benzyl alcohol may cause allergic reactions and mild local irritation.

This medicine contains Fruitier Timotei Fragrance with the following allergens: Linalool, Alpha-Isomethyl ionone (3-Methyl-4-(2,6,6-trimethyl-2-cyclohexen-1-yl)-3-buten-2-one), Citronellol, Hexyl cinnamal (Hexyl cinnamaldehyde), Benzyl salicylate, Benzyl benzoate, Coumarin, Eugenol, Geraniol, Hydroxycitronellal, Isoeugenol, Butylphenyl methylpropional (Lilial), d-Limonene, Benzyl alcohol, Amyl cinnamal, Amylcinnamyl alcohol, Anisyl alcohol (Anise alcohol), Benzyl cinnamate, Cinnamal, Cinnamyl alcohol, Citral, Farnesol. These may cause allergic reactions.



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3. How to use Polytar Scalp Shampoo

Always use this medicine exactly as described in this leaflet or as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist, if you are not sure.



Adults and children aged 12 years and over:

Use **Polytar Scalp Shampoo** once or twice a week for four weeks. Use for longer than this should only be on the advice of a doctor.

1. Wet your hair.
2. Use enough shampoo so that the lather is abundant to cover your scalp, hair and adjacent areas, if also affected.
3. Massage the scalp and adjacent areas well using your fingertips.
4. Rinse your scalp and hair thoroughly.
5. Repeat steps 2 to 4.

Polytar Scalp Shampoo should be in contact with your scalp for a total time of **three to five minutes** over the **two applications**.

If you use more Polytar Scalp Shampoo than you should

If you use more Polytar Scalp Shampoo than recommended or use more often than recommended, you may be more likely to get skin irritation or skin sensitivity to sunlight.

If you forget to use Polytar Scalp Shampoo

If you forget to use Polytar Scalp Shampoo just apply the next day instead.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, Polytar Scalp Shampoo can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. A small number of people have had side effects.

Stop taking this medicine and tell your doctor immediately if you experience:

- **Allergic reactions.** These may include developing a rash, swelling of the mouth or face or having difficulty breathing.

Stop taking the medicine and tell your doctor if you experience:

- eye irritation
- unusual hair loss or thinning
- eczema (itchy skin rash)
- hair colour changes
- abnormal hair texture
- sensitivity to sunlight
- skin irritation, skin may be dry, red or itchy, you may feel a burning sensation on the skin
- skin pain, rash or swelling at the application site

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in the package leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Polytar Scalp Shampoo

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

Store below 25°C.

Do not use Polytar Scalp Shampoo after the expiry date on the bottle and the carton. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

6. Further Information

Active ingredient: Coal tar solution 4% (w/w).

Other ingredients: Sodium Lauryl Ether Sulfate, Cocamidopropyl Betaine, Disodium Phosphate Dihydrate, Citric Acid Monohydrate, Benzyl Alcohol (1% w/w), Macrogol 150 Distearate, Hexylene Glycol, Oleyl Alcohol, Polyquaternium-10, Fruitier Timotei Fragrance (contains: Linalool, Alpha-Isomethyl ionone (3-Methyl-4-(2,6,6-trimethyl-2-cyclohexen-1-yl)-3-buten-2-one), Citronellol, Hexyl cinnamal (Hexyl cinnamaldehyde), Benzyl salicylate, Benzyl benzoate, Coumarin, Eugenol, Geraniol, Hydroxycitronellal, Isoeugenol, Butylphenyl methylpropional (Lilial), Limonene, Benzyl alcohol, Amyl cinnamal, Amylcinnamyl alcohol, Anisyl alcohol (Anise alcohol), Benzyl cinnamate, Cinnamal, Cinnamyl alcohol, Citral, Farnesol) and Purified Water.

What Polytar Scalp Shampoo looks like and contents of the pack

Bottles contain 25ml, 150ml and 250ml. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

The marketing authorization holder and manufacturer is:

Thornton & Ross Ltd., Huddersfield, HD7 5QH, UK.

This leaflet was last revised: May 2021



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