



ADR

Tip of the Month

Chlorhexidine gluconate skin antiseptics – Chemical skin burns in neonates

Chlorhexidine solutions (both alcohol and aqueous), used to clean the skin before invasive procedures, have caused chemical skin burns in neonates.

Review of cases indicate that the risk is highest in preterm infants (especially <32 weeks gestational age) with a chronological age of <2 weeks.

Physicians should:

- Be aware that the extent and severity of injury is worse with the use of excessive quantities, pooling or accumulation in skin folds or in bedding in direct contact with the infant's skin, or where plasticized film had been placed over the cleansed area.
- Remove excess solution and soaked material in contact with the infant's skin immediately.
- Monitor exposed infants for early detection of injury.

Please report all suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs).