



## PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

# POLYAMINOPROPYL BIGUANIDE

(P-043)

Your patch testing results indicate that you have a contact allergy to **POLYAMINOPROPYL BIGUANIDE**. It is important that you familiarize yourself with this chemical and take steps to avoid coming in contact with it.

### What is **POLYAMINOPROPYL BIGUANIDE** and where is it found?

Polyhexamethylene biguanide hydrochloride (PHMB) is a chemical biocide which is a polymer utilized in a wide variety of antimicrobial applications

It is used as a preservative in cosmetics, personal care products, fabric softeners, contact lens solutions, hand washes, and more. In cosmetics, the preservation of fruit and vegetables. It is also used to preserve wet wipes; to control odor in textiles; to prevent microbial contamination in wound irrigation and sterile dressings; to disinfect medical/dental utensil and trays, farm equipment, animal drinking water, and hard surfaces for food handling institutions and hospitals; and to deodorize vacuums and toilets

### What else is **POLYAMINOPROPYL BIGUANIDE** called?

Polyaminopropyl Biguanide

## THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP MANAGE YOUR CONTACT ALLERGY

**Be vigilant... read the product label.** Always take the time to read the ingredient listing on product packages. This should be your first step each time you purchase a product as manufacturers sometimes change product ingredients. If you have any concerns ask your pharmacist or your doctor.

**Test the product first.** If you have purchased a new product you should test it on a small skin area to see if you get a reaction before using the product on larger skin areas.

**Advise people you obtain services from of your contact allergy.** This should include people like your pharmacist, doctor, hairdresser, florist, veterinarian, etc.

**Inform your employer if the source of your contact allergy is work related.** You should identify the specific source of the chemical and take the necessary steps to avoid further exposure. Protective wear may be adequate or you may need to make a change in your work activities. Both you and your employer benefit when the cause of your occupational dermatitis is eliminated.

**"Google" it.** The internet is an excellent source of ingredient information that can be searched by product, by

company and by specific chemical. Some helpful independent internet links include: [www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/factsheets.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/factsheets.html) (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; alphabetic list) [www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/factssubj.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/factssubj.html) (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; subject list) [www.cosmeticsinfo.org](http://www.cosmeticsinfo.org) (Cosmetic Industry Category Ingredient Database) [www.whatsinsidescjohnson.com](http://www.whatsinsidescjohnson.com) (information on all S.C. Johnson product ingredients)

If you have any future contact dermatitis concerns or questions, please call the doctor's office.

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