

# Zostrix HP

## MIMS Abbreviated Prescribing Information

capsaicin

[Link](#)

**Section:** **5(d)** Rubefacients, topical analgesics/NSAIDs - Musculoskeletal System

**Permitted in sport**

**Use:** Postherpetic neuralgia, diabetic neuropathy pain

**Contraindications:** Active Herpes zoster

**Precautions:** Broken skin; eye contact

**Adverse Reactions:** Burning sensation

**Zostrix HP (Cream)** (Unscheduled)

Capsaicin

**Directions:** Adults, children greater than or equal to 2 years: apply to affected area 3-4 times daily

**Pack** 0.075% 55 g [1] : \$34.37

# Zostrix, Zostrix HP

## MIMS Full Prescribing Information

**MIMS revision date:** 1/04/1996

**Name of the medicine** Capsaicin.

**Excipients.** Benzyl alcohol 1% w/w as preservative.

**Description** Capsaicin is a naturally occurring alkaloid extracted from red chilli peppers following a 1,000 fold purification process.

Chemical name: trans-8-methyl-N-vanillyl-6-nonenamide.

**Actions** Topical analgesic cream.

**Pharmacology.** Capsaicin produces an analgesic effect by interfering with the synthesis, storage, transport and release of substance P, a neurotransmitter of pain impulses from the periphery to the central nervous system and an important mediator of inflammation.

Capsaicin selectively relieves pain without interfering with sensory perception from the treated area.

**Indications** **Zostrix.** Adjunct in pain relief for arthritis and postherpetic neuralgia.

**Zostrix HP.** Pain relief for diabetic neuropathy and postherpetic neuralgia.

**Contraindications** Application to active *Herpes zoster*.

**Precautions** For external use only. Avoid contact with eyes, or broken or irritated skin. Keep out of reach of children.

If using Zostrix and the condition worsens, or if symptoms persist for more than 28 days in the case of arthritis (14 days with postherpetic neuralgia), or clear up and occur again within a few days, the patient should discontinue use and consult a doctor.

If using Zostrix H-P, do not bandage the affected area tightly. If the condition worsens or does not improve after 28 days, the patient should discontinue use of the cream and consult a doctor.

**Adverse effects** Mild to moderate temporary burning sensation after application.

**Directions for use** **Adults, children  $\geq$  2 years.** Apply Zostrix or Zostrix H-P to the affected area three to four times daily. The cream may cause temporary burning when applied. This burning is observed more frequently if the cream is used less than three times/day. Unless treating the hands, wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after application. If Zostrix or Zostrix H-P is found to irritate the fingers, a disposable glove or finger cot may be used for application. After rubbing in the cream as completely as possible, any excess may be gently removed with a disposable tissue.

**Presentation** **Zostrix.** Cream, 0.025% w/w: 45 g.

**Zostrix HP.** Cream, 0.075% w/w: 55 g.

**Poison Schedule** Unscheduled.

**Source Reference** Date of TGA approved information: 14/12/1995

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