

Cellulose sulfate

Brand Name: Ushercell

Drug Class: Microbicides

Cellulose sulfate, or CS, is being studied as an experimental HIV microbicide called Ushercell. Microbicides are substances that protect the body from infection by microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, and fungi. Microbicides work by either destroying the microbes or preventing them from establishing an infection.

HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

Cellulose sulfate is an investigational medicine that is not yet approved by the FDA for use outside of clinical trials. It was being studied for the prevention of HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases. This medicine does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and was being studied to reduce the risk of passing the virus to other people.

Two Phase III studies in HIV uninfected women were stopped in January 2007, because preliminary results at some trial sites indicated that use of cellulose sulfate could lead to an increased risk of HIV infection in women who use this microbicide. In a detailed review of the final trial data, cellulose sulfate displayed no preventive effect on HIV transmission and increased the risk of HIV infection. It will no longer be studied for use as a microbicide to prevent HIV transmission.

Dosage Form/Administration

Cellulose sulfate comes in a topical gel form in prefilled 3.5 ml applicators and is applied vaginally. In clinical trials, cellulose sulfate 6% gel has been applied once or twice daily.

Contraindications

Individuals should tell a doctor about any medical problems before taking this medicine.

Possible Side Effects

Along with its desired effects, cellulose sulfate may cause some unwanted effects. While not all of these effects are known, vaginal leaking of gel and slight stinging have been reported.

Drug and Food Interactions

A doctor should be notified of any other medications being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), or herbal medications.

Clinical Trials

For information on clinical trials that involve Cellulose sulfate, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. In the Search box, enter: Cellulose sulfate AND HIV Infections.

Manufacturer Information

Cellulose sulfate
Polydex Pharmaceuticals Ltd
Sandringham House
83 Shirley Street
Nassau, Bahamas
242 322 8571

Ushercell
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Sandringham House
83 Shirley Street
Nassau, Bahamas
242 322 8571

For More Information

Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health Information Specialist:

- Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET
- Via Live Help: http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET