

If you are concerned about any side effects, you may have following this treatment, please contact the stoma care team for advice.

How to contact us:

If you have any concerns regarding your stoma, pouch, stoma output or peristomal skin, please contact the stoma care team on:

0118 322 7640 or email

Rbft.stomanurses@royalberkshire.nhs.net

Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays) between 8am and 4pm.

If your call goes to answerphone, please leave your name, contact details and a brief message, and your query will be dealt with by the next working day.

Out of hours, contact your GP or their out of hours' service. For emergencies, dial NHS 111, or visit your nearest Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Department (A&E).

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

Stoma Care Nurses, May 2023
Next review due: May 2025



Royal Berkshire
NHS Foundation Trust

Topical silver nitrate treatment for peristomal granulomas

Information for patients with a stoma

This leaflet is for patients with a stoma, who have peristomal granulomas that are causing problems. Treatment uses silver nitrate topically (applied to the skin).

What is a granuloma?

Peristomal granulomas are friable (easily damaged) tender papules (bumps) that can grow on the stoma or at the junction between the stoma and the skin.

Granulomas usually occur due to contamination of the affected area by faeces (poo) or friction. This can be caused by a change in size of the stoma or the pouch being cut to the wrong size.

Granulomas can then lead to pain, bleeding, irritation and may stop the pouch from sticking properly to the skin.

How are granulomas treated?

Granuloma are initially treated topically with silver nitrate to reduce the size and symptoms of the granulomas. The treatment will be need to be carried out **once a week for four weeks.**

If this treatment is not effective and the granulomas remain, we may recommend the removal of the granuloma using curettage and cautery (scraped off and sealed with heat to stop bleeding).

What is silver nitrate?

Silver nitrate is a topical treatment that is applied directly onto the skin using a 'matchstick' applicator. It cauterises (burns) the area to treat overgrown tissue and reduce bleeding. Your stoma nurse has received training on how to apply this medication, as it must only be applied to the granulomas and can damage healthy tissue.

Who is suitable for treatment with silver nitrate?

You may not be suitable for this treatment if you have one or more of the following:

- Known hypersensitivity / allergy to silver nitrate.
- Previous adverse (bad) reaction to silver nitrate.

Please speak to your stoma care nurse if you have any questions or concerns about your suitability for treatment

What happens during the silver nitrate treatment?

- Your stoma care nurse will explain the treatment and ask you for verbal consent to proceed.
- You will be asked to remove your pouch and the area will be cleaned and assessed (please bring a spare pouch with you).
- The stoma nurse will apply the silver nitrate using the 'matchstick' applicator to each granuloma for five seconds; you may experience some mild stinging or burning.

- A thin hydrocolloid seal (type of waterproof dressing) will be applied to the treated area to assist with wound healing and then your stoma pouch will be cut to the correct size and applied.
- Please change your pouch the next day.

What are the benefits of silver nitrate treatment?

The aim of this treatment is to reduce the size and symptoms of your granulomas.

This will help you achieve good pouch adherence and promote pouch comfort.

The stoma care nurse will discuss ways to limit the recurrence of any granuloma in the future which may include stoma product choice and cutting size.

What are the side effects of silver nitrate treatment?

Very common:

- Mild stinging or burning

Common:

- Chemical burns (skin or clothing staining) to surrounding area.
- Change in the appearance of the skin around your stoma.

Rare

- Argyria (accumulation of silver / silver nitrate compounds) – this can occur if silver nitrate is applied over a long period of time in large quantities. Argyria is thought to be harmless; however, it may cause silver-grey skin discolouration.