

Patent Number: 0410348**Title:** Topical [spironolactone](#) composition**Title:** Composition de [spironolactone](#) à usage topique**Issue Date:** 19910130[Front Page](#)[Claims](#)[Description](#)[Back to Search Results](#)**Description:** *FIELD OF THE INVENTION*

The present invention relates to a topical [spironolactone](#) composition useful for treating acne, hirsutism, and other disorders caused by excess androgenic activity. The topical composition permits the administration of [spironolactone](#) at the affected skin site in order to reduce the likelihood of subjecting the patient to the systemic effects of [spironolactone](#). The composition of the present invention comprises a topical formulation of [spironolactone](#) which has the advantages of being very stable during long-term storage and having good cosmetic acceptability. [Spironolactone](#) is practically insoluble in water, and its poor solubility characteristics make it difficult to develop a cream formulation which has good stability, good cosmetic acceptability, and good anti-androgenic activity.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

U.S. Patent No. RE 32112 (Shapiro) discloses a composition for effectively suppressing excess androgenic activity which occurs at a skin site, which consists essentially of [spironolactone](#) in an amount of from about 0.25 weight percent to about 5.0 weight percent in a suitable carrier. Examples of suitable carriers are alcohol, [urea](#), mineral oil or white petrolatum. A solubilizer such as [stearyl alcohol](#) or [cetyl alcohol](#) in an amount of about 1.5 weight percent to 3.0 wt.% can be used to solubilize the [spironolactone](#) and a viscosifier such as 3.0 to 6.0 weight percent cottonseed oil can also be used in the composition as can a preservative such as 0.25 to 0.5 weight percent [methyl hydroxy benzoate](#). The composition is useful for treating acne, hirsutism and baldness caused by excess androgenic activity. The [stearyl alcohol](#) or [cetyl alcohol](#) disclosed as solubilizers in this patent have the disadvantage of not being good solvents for [spironolactone](#). Furthermore, Shapiro lists alcohol as a carrier and many low [carbon](#) alcohols such as [ethanol](#) and [isopropyl alcohol](#) are undesirable because they tend to cause degradation of [spironolactone](#).

U. S. Patent No. 4,543,351 (Messina) discloses a spironolactone-containing composition for combating acne in the form of a cream to be applied to human skin. The amount of [spironolactone](#) in the cream may be from 0.1 to 10 weight percent. The carrier in which the [spironolactone](#) is incorporated is a mixture of (1) from 10 to 25 weight percent of a mixed [polyethylene glycol](#) and [polyoxyethylene glycol ester](#) of a higher saturated fatty acid, (2) from 2 to 10 weight percent of a saturated [polyoxyethylene glycolglyceride](#), and (3) from 60 to 75 weight percent of water. Liquid paraffin may be added to give the desired consistency. This composition also has certain disadvantages. For example, it does not contain any ingredient which would act as a solvent for [spironolactone](#). The ingredient Tefose 63 ([polyethylene glycol](#) and [polyoxyethylene glycol](#) palmito [stearate](#)) when combined alone with [spironolactone](#) tends to degrade the [spironolactone](#) and would therefore be expected to be less satisfactory as an ingredient for a spironolactone-containing composition.

European patent application EP 0 028 525 discloses a topical hair treatment agent to promote the growth of hair and prevent dandruff that is characterized in that it contains [spironolactone](#) as the active component. The hair treatment agent is used in solution form as a liniment. It contains 0.01 to 2 weight percent [spironolactone](#) along with solvents which may be monohydric aliphatic alcohols such as [ethanol](#) and [propanol](#) or di- and polyhydric alcohols such as [glycerol](#), [propylene glycol](#) and [polyethylene glycol](#). [Spironolactone](#) is unstable upon long term storage with these ingredients; and, therefore, this formulation is undesirable. When [spironolactone](#) breaks down an unpleasant [mercaptan](#) odor results. Thus ingredients which tend to degrade [spironolactone](#) are undesirable.

U.S. Patent No. 3, 711,602 discloses a topical ophthalmic formulation containing about 0.1 to 0.75 weight percent [spironolactone](#) along with [polyethylene glycol](#), [dimethyl sulfoxide](#) (DMSO) and water. The [DMSO](#) is said to enhance penetration of the active ingredient.

FR2588755-A1 discloses a topical composition for the treatment of alopecia androgenetica comprising 1 to 10% [spironolactone](#) by weight in an alcohol solution preferably 1/3 alcohol 90° and 2/3 [isopropyl alcohol](#). An example of a formulation of the invention has the following ingredients:

Spironolactone	1 to 10% by weight
Alcohol 90°	about 20% by weight
Isopropyl alcohol	about 60% by weight
DMSO (dimethyl sulfoxide)	about 2.5% by weight

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Distilled water q.s.p. 100% by weight

This formulation is undesirable because the alcohols used in this formulation would degrade [spironolactone](#) to [canrenone](#), and the [thio group](#) which comes off [spironolactone](#) when it is degraded forms a [mercaptan](#) which has a disagreeable odor.

F.O. Rey, et. al. J. ENDOCRINOL. INVEST, 11:273 (1988) discusses the lack of endocrine systemic side effects after topical application of [spironolactone](#) in man using a cream composed of purified water 66.35%, [propylene glycol](#) 12%, vaseline oil 8%, [spironolactone](#) 5%, cetostearyl alcohol 4.5%, cetomacronol 1000 (i.e. the polyethylene glycol ether of [cetyl alcohol](#)) that conforms to the formula $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_{14}\text{CH}_2(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OH}$ where n has an average value of 20) 4%, adjuvants 0.65%. Since [spironolactone](#) tends to be unstable upon long term storage with [propylene glycol](#) and polyethylene glycol ether of [cetyl alcohol](#), this would not be a desirable formulation.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a topical [spironolactone](#) composition which is useful for treating acne, hirsutism, and other disorders caused by excess androgenic activity such as alopecia and seborrhea. The spironolactone-containing topical formulation is applied directly to the skin in order to treat the disease. The topical formulation is effective at the skin site, but has the advantage of reducing or avoiding the systemic side effects of [spironolactone](#) which would occur with oral or [parenteral](#) administration. The [spironolactone](#) composition of the present invention also has the advantages of being particularly stable upon long-term storage and having good cosmetic appearance and acceptability. The composition contains from about 1 to about 12 weight percent of [spironolactone](#) as the active ingredient along with a suitable solvent for [spironolactone](#) such as [diisopropyl adipate](#), emulsifying agents, such as cetearyl alcohol, [sodium lauryl sulfate](#), [glycerol monostearate](#), and [polyoxyethylene stearate](#), buffering agents, preservatives such as [methyl paraben](#) and [propyl paraben](#), an ointment base such as petrolatum, a noncomedogenic liquid carrier such as mineral oil, and water.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The topical [spironolactone](#) formulation of the present invention comprises an effective amount of [spironolactone](#) in a mixture of (1) emulsifying agents, (2) a suitable solvent for [spironolactone](#), (3) buffering agents sufficient to maintain a pH of from about 4.0 to about 6.0 and (4) water. In addition an ointment base and a noncomedogenic liquid carrier may be employed to give the desired consistency. An effective amount of preservative may also be added.

A preferred composition comprises about 1.0 to 12.0 wt. percent of [spironolactone](#) along with (1) about 2.5 to 18.5 wt. percent of a mixture of cetearyl alcohol and [sodium lauryl sulfate](#) and a mixed [glycerol monostearate](#) and [polyoxyethylene stearate](#), (2) about 0.5 to 6.0 wt. percent [diisopropyl adipate](#) or C8-C10 ethoxylated [glyceride](#) (3) about 0.23 to 2.3 wt. percent buffering agents; and (4) water. To the above may be added a noncomedogenic liquid carrier such as mineral oil and an ointment base such as petrolatum to produce an emulsion having the desired consistency. A preservative such as methyl and/or [propyl paraben](#) or other suitable preservative may be added.

In one embodiment the topical [spironolactone](#) composition of the present invention comprises:

about 1.0 to 12.0 wt. percent [spironolactone](#);
about 2.5 to 18.5 wt. percent emulsifying agents;
about 0.5 to 6.0 wt. percent solvent;
about 50 to 80 wt. percent water; and sufficient buffering agents to maintain a pH of from about 4.0 to about 6.0.

In addition, to produce the desired consistency, the following ingredients can be included in the above formulation:

about 1.0 to 12.0 wt. percent of a non-comedogenic liquid carrier;
about 1.0 to 15.0 wt. percent of an ointment base.
From about 0.04 to about 0.6 wt. percent of preservative may also be added.

A preferred formulation of the present invention comprises:

1.0 to 12.0 wt. percent [spironolactone](#);
1.5 to 12.0 wt. percent of a mixture of cetearyl alcohol and [sodium lauryl sulfate](#);
1.0 to 6.5 wt. percent of a mixture of [glycerol monostearate](#) and [polyoxyethylene stearate](#);
1.0 to 12.0 wt. percent mineral oil;
0.5 to 6.0 wt. percent [diisopropyl adipate](#);
1.0 to 15.0 wt. percent petrolatum;
0.02 to 0.3 wt. percent [propyl-p-hydroxybenzoate](#);
0.02 to 0.3 wt. percent [methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate](#);
0.13 to 1.3 wt. percent of a weak acid salt;
0.1 to 1.0 wt. percent of a weak acid;
50 to 80 wt. percent water

A more preferred formulation of the present invention comprises:

1.0 to 12.0 wt. percent [spironolactone](#);
7.2 to 10.8 wt. percent of a 90:10 mixture of cetearyl alcohol and [sodium lauryl](#)

sulfate;

4.0 to 6.0 wt. percent of a 50:50 mixture of [glycerol monostearate](#) and [polyoxyethylene stearate](#);

4.8 to 7.2 wt. percent light mineral oil;

3.6 to 5.4 wt. percent [diisopropyl adipate](#);

8.4 to 12.6 wt. percent white petrolatum;

0.04 to 0.06 wt. percent [propyl-p-hydroxybenzoate](#);

0.12 to 0.18 wt. percent [methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate](#);

0.53 to 0.78 wt. percent [sodium citrate dihydrate](#);

0.4 to 0.6 wt. percent [citric acid monohydrate](#);

55 to 70 wt. percent purified water USP

The present invention relates to a topical [spironolactone](#) composition for use in the treatment of acne and other disorders characterized by excess androgenic activity such as hirsutism seborrhea and some types of baldness. The topical [spironolactone](#) composition is to be applied to the skin in the affected area.

The use of the topical [spironolactone](#) composition of the present invention has the advantage of enabling the acne or other condition to be treated at the skin site where the excess androgenic activity occurs thus reducing the likelihood of subjecting the patient to the systemic effects of [spironolactone](#) which would occur with oral or [parenteral](#) administration. The formulation has the ability to penetrate the skin and stay there with very little systemic absorption of the [spironolactone](#) active ingredient, which is a desirable characteristic. Treatment with the formulation of the present invention is usually accomplished by applying it to completely cover the affected area. The usual frequency of application is twice daily, although this may vary depending on the particular patient and the severity of the condition being treated. The composition is for topical administration to warm-blooded animals, including man, and contains as the active anti-androgenic ingredient an effective amount of [spironolactone](#).

An additional advantage of the topical [spironolactone](#) composition of the present invention is its stability upon long-term storage. [Spironolactone](#) is insoluble and typically unstable in aqueous systems. Many alcohols, particularly alcohols having a low number of [carbon](#) atoms, degrade [spironolactone](#). In the formulation of the present invention, [spironolactone](#) is very stable and would be expected to remain stable for at least two years. The use of a solvent such as [diisopropyl adipate](#) which is a good solvent for [spironolactone](#) but does not readily degrade it and the maintenance of the pH at from about 4 to about 6 using an appropriate buffering system as well as the use of emulsifiers which will work in an acid pH all contribute to the stability of the [spironolactone](#) composition.

Examples of some weak acids which can be utilized in buffering the formulation of the present invention include, but are not limited to, [citric acid](#), [citric acid monohydrate](#), [boric acid](#), and phosphoric acid.

Examples of some acid salts which can be used in buffering the formulation include, but are not limited to, [sodium citrate](#), [sodium citrate dihydrate](#), [monopotassium phosphate](#), and [disodium phosphate](#). One skilled in the art would be aware that other weak acids and acid salts could also be used to maintain adequate buffering and, therefore, the above listings are not intended to be limiting.

Preservatives which are suitable for use in the formula include, but are not limited to, [p-hydroxybenzoates](#) such as [methyl p-hydroxybenzoate](#), [ethyl p-hydroxybenzoate](#), [propyl p-hydroxybenzoate](#) and [butyl p-hydroxybenzoate](#) as well as [benzoic acid](#) and [imidizolidinyl urea](#).

A suitable solvent is one which readily dissolves [spironolactone](#) but does not readily degrade it to [canrenone](#). Many alcohols, especially low [carbon](#) chain alcohols are undesirable as solvents because of their tendency to degrade [spironolactone](#) to [canrenone](#) and release foul smelling mercaptans. A solvent other than [diisopropyl adipate](#) which would be suitable for use in the present composition is C8-C10 ethoxylated [glyceride](#) which is available as Labrafac hydrophil WL1219 from Gattefosse, Sait Priest Cedex, France.

A preferred acid is [citric acid monohydrate](#). A preferred acid salt is [sodium citrate dihydrate](#).

The cosmetic acceptance of the formulation may be enhanced by using a "low odor" type of [spironolactone](#) such as [spironolactone](#), USP, micronized which has been purified to reduce odors associated with mercaptans. A preferred water for use in the composition is purified water USP.

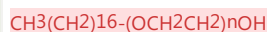
The amount of [spironolactone](#) in the composition may vary from about 1 weight percent to about 12 weight percent. In the preferred formulations the amount of [spironolactone](#) may vary from about 1.0 weight percent to about 5.0 weight percent with about 5.0 weight percent being most preferred.

The carrier in which the [spironolactone](#) is contained is an oil in water buffered emulsion comprising a mixture of cetearyl alcohol and [sodium lauryl sulfate](#), preferably as a mixture of about 90% cetearyl alcohol and about 10% [sodium lauryl sulfate](#) such as Lanette SX, which is available from Henkel Corp., 300 Brookside Ave., Ambler, PA 19002; [glycerol monostearate](#) and [polyoxyethylene stearate](#), preferably as a mixture of about 50% [glycerol monostearate](#) and about 50% [polyoxyethylene stearate](#) such as Arlacel® 165 which is available

from ICI Americas, Inc., Cherry Lane, P.O. Box 231, New Castle, Delaware 19720; [diisopropyl adipate](#) which serves as a solvent for [spironolactone](#); appropriate buffers such as [sodium citrate dihydrate](#) and [citric acid monohydrate](#); and water. In addition petrolatum and mineral oil may be added to give the desired consistency and preservatives such as [propyl-p-hydroxybenzoate](#) and/or [methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate](#) may also be added.

A preferred petrolatum is white petrolatum although other petrolatums can also be used. A preferred mineral oil is light mineral oil although other mineral oils can also be used.

Cetearyl alcohol is a mixture of fatty alcohols consisting predominantly of cetyl and stearyl alcohols (See *CTFA Cosmetic Ingredient Dictionary*, 3rd Ed. 1982). A preferred [polyoxyethylene stearate](#) is PEG-100 [stearate](#) which is the [polyethylene glycol ester](#) of [stearic acid](#) that conforms to the formula;



Where n has an average value of 100.

The composition of the present invention is manufactured in a conventional manner by thoroughly mixing the ingredients, preferably at elevated temperatures. Preferably the [spironolactone](#) is added to the oil phase. The ingredients are thoroughly mixed so that the product is homogeneous. Processing equipment suitable for preparing the composition is known in the art.

The topical composition of the present invention is prepared by first heating the oil phase ingredients until melted then adding [spironolactone](#) to the oil phase and homogenizing. The aqueous phase ingredients are heated in a separate container, then the oil phase and aqueous phase are combined and emulsified under appropriate temperature and pressure conditions. The emulsified composition is then cooled and blended and transferred to appropriate containers.

For example, a topical [spironolactone](#) composition of the present invention may be prepared by heating a mixture of the following oil phase ingredients until melted: cetearyl [alcohol/sodium lauryl sulfate](#) blend (for example, LANETTE SX), glycerol [monostearate/ polyoxyethylene stearate](#) blend (for example, ARLACEL® 165), mineral oil, [diisopropyl adipate](#) and petrolatum, then adding [spironolactone](#) and a preservative such as [propyl-p-hydroxybenzoate](#) and homogenizing the ingredients. The homogeneous blend is then emulsified with the following aqueous phase ingredients which have been mixed together and heated; [sodium citrate](#), [citric acid](#), a preservative, such as [methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate](#), and water. Following emulsification, the mixture is cooled, then blended to produce the final [spironolactone](#) product.

The stability of a [spironolactone](#) 5% cream having the formulation shown in Example 2 was studied in glass jars. Stability data generated on samples stored at accelerated conditions (50°C, 40°C, cyclic temperatures of -10°C to 40°C and intense light) and at room temperature indicated little change for both percent [spironolactone](#) and percent [canrenone](#), which is a decomposition product of [spironolactone](#), after 13 weeks. Samples stored at room temperature showed little change after 13, 21, 39 and 58 weeks.

Two trials were initiated to evaluate the stability of a [spironolactone](#) 5% cream topical preparation having the formulation shown in Example 2 packaged in laminate tubes with polypropylene caps. Conditions of storage included 40°C and 30°C, with the, inner seal of the tube punctured and unpunctured. Assays for [spironolactone](#) and [canrenone](#), as well as pH and physical characteristics (color, odor, and appearance) were evaluated. Samples packaged in laminate tubes with polypropylene caps and stored with the inner seal punctured and unpunctured at 40°C and 30°C showed no change through the 13 week test interval. Physical characteristics remained unchanged.

A sample prepared according to U.S. 4,543,351 (Messina) Formulation B (column 3, Example 2) which was stored at 50°C for one week showed some separation and had a gritty feel when applied to the skin.

The following formulation examples illustrate the compositions of the present invention and are not to be construed as limiting the invention either in spirit or in scope. It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that many modifications thereof may be made without departing from the purpose and intent of this disclosure. In these examples, temperatures are given in degrees Celsius (°C) and quantities of materials in grams and milliliters unless otherwise noted. All percentages are by weight.

EXAMPLE 1

A 5% w/w topical [spironolactone](#) cream is prepared from the following ingredients.

INGREDIENTS	QUANTITY, g.
<i>OIL PHASE</i>	
Spironolactone , USP	150.0
micronized	
Cetearyl Alcohol and Sodium	270.0
Lauryl Sulfate Mixture(1)	

<u>Glycerol Monostearate</u> and <u>Polyoxyethylene Stearate</u> Mixture(2)	150.0
Light Mineral Oil, NF	180.0
<u>Diisopropyl Adipate</u>	135.0
White Petrolatum, USP	315.0
<u>Propyl-p-Hydroxybenzoate</u> , NF (<u>Propyl Paraben</u>)	1.5
AQUEOUS PHASE	
<u>Methyl-p-Hydroxybenzoate</u> , NF (<u>Methyl Paraben</u>)	4.5
<u>Sodium Citrate Dihydrate</u> , USP	19.5
<u>Citric Acid Monohydrate</u> , USP	15.0
Purified Water, USP	1760.0 (1) Lanette SX, Henkel Corp., Ambler, PA(2) Arlacel® 165, ICI Americas, Inc., New Castle, Delaware

PROCEDURE

1. In a suitable vessel charge the white petrolatum; light mineral oil, diisopropyl adipate, cetearyl alcohol and sodium lauryl sulfate mixture, and glycerol monostearate and polyoxyethylene stearate mixture. Melt and heat to about 80 to 82°C. This is the oil phase.
2. In another suitable vessel, charge the methyl paraben, sodium citrate dihydrate, citric acid monohydrate, and purified water and heat to about 80 to 82°C with agitation. This is the aqueous phase.
3. After all materials are melted and the temperature of the oil phase reaches about 80 to 82°C, add the propyl paraben and spironolactone to the oil phase.
4. Homogenize the oil phase and then combine the oil phase with the aqueous phase under vacuum using homogenizer and agitator speeds suitable to provide the desired emulsification.
5. Cool with gradually reduced agitation until the product temperature reaches about 25°C; then transfer the product to an appropriate container.

EXAMPLE 2

Using the procedure of Example 1, formulations containing varying amounts of the spironolactone active ingredient can be prepared. The following shows the amounts in weight percent of the various ingredients used to make formulations containing 1%, 3% or 5% of spironolactone.

INGREDIENTS	%		
	(W/W)		
	5%	3%	1% CREAM
		CREAM	CREAM
OIL PHASE			
<u>Spironolactone</u> , USP micronized	5.0	3.0	1.0
Cetearyl Alcohol and <u>Sodium Lauryl Sulfate</u> Mixture(1)	9.0	9.0	9.0
<u>Glycerol Monostearate</u> and <u>Polyoxyethylene Stearate</u> Mixture(2)	5.0	5.0	5.0
Light Mineral Oil, NF	6.0	6.0	6.0
<u>Diisopropyl Adipate</u>	4.5	4.5	4.5
White Petrolatum, USP	10.5	10.5	10.5
<u>Propyl-p-Hydroxybenzoate</u> , NF (<u>Propyl Paraben</u>)	0.05	0.05	0.05
AQUEOUS PHASE			
<u>Methyl-p-Hydroxybenzoate</u> , NF (<u>Methyl Paraben</u>)	0.15	0.15	0.15
<u>Sodium Citrate Dihydrate</u> , USP	0.65	0.65	0.65
<u>Citric Acid Monohydrate</u> , USP	0.5	0.5	0.5
Purified Water, USP	58.65	60.65	62.65 (1) Lanette SX(2) Arlacel® 165