

## OINTMENTS QUALITY CONTROL PARAMETERS

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Ointments quality is evaluated by the same main parameters as other medicinal forms.

It's necessary to check: documentation (prescription, passport), packaging design, and the absence of separation and mechanical impurities, the deviation in weight.

Determining the authenticity conduct visually by appearance and organoleptic characteristics (smell, color, etc.). Depending on the properties of medicinal substances in the ointment and used ointment bases.

Uniformity of ointments is determined by the size of solid particles. Determination of ointments pH is necessary for control of its stability during storage.

The pH changes during time of storage, indicating changes of ointment physicochemical properties. Important parameters of the ointments quality are structural and mechanical (rheological) properties. Consistency of ointments affects the processes for their preparation and packaging, spreadability and release of the active substances.

The following requirements of ointments should be met for maximizing its therapeutic effect:

- posses the smearing ability, it have the necessary structural and mechanical (lubricating) properties: viscosity, flexibility, fluidity, thixotropy, and so on;
- should be pharmacologically indifferent, contribute the preservation of the skin initial pH;
- provide good release of active substances;
- don't change on exposure to air, light, temperature variations, and don't react with active substances, i.e. possess chemical stability;
- don't render irritating or sensitizing effect;
- should not be the medium for microbial contamination;
- should not stain clothes, do not be too sticky, easily washed off with soap and without it;
- ointment base properties should be consistent with its purpose objective: the bases for protective ointments should quickly dry up and adhere to the surface of the skin; the existing surface ointments bases should not be able for absorption; the bases for resorptive ointments should penetrate deeply into the skin to reach the bloodstream and contribute to the drugs absorption.

All of these parameters are necessary for investigation of the dermatological ointments.