



Edition: BP 2025 (Ph. Eur. 11.6 update)

Salicylic Acid Ointment

[General Notices](#)

NOTE: This monograph has been developed to cover unlicensed formulations.

Action and use

Keratolytic.

DEFINITION

Salicylic Acid Ointment contains Salicylic Acid in a suitable water-emulsifying basis.

The ointment complies with the requirements stated under Topical Semi-solid Preparations and with the following requirements. Where appropriate, the ointment also complies with the requirements stated under Unlicensed Medicines.

Content of salicylic acid, C₇H₆O₃

95.0 to 105.0% of the stated amount.

IDENTIFICATION

Shake 1 g with 10 mL of [water](#), filter and add to the filtrate [iron\(III\) chloride solution R1](#); an intense reddish violet colour is produced which persists on the addition of 6M [acetic acid](#). Add [2M hydrochloric acid](#); the colour disappears and a white, crystalline precipitate is produced.

ASSAY

Dissolve a quantity of the ointment containing 0.25 g of Salicylic Acid in a mixture of 20 mL of [ethanol](#) (96%), previously neutralised to [phenol red solution](#), and 20 mL of [ether](#) and titrate with [0.1M sodium hydroxide VS](#) using [phenol red solution](#) as indicator. Each mL of [0.1M sodium hydroxide VS](#) is equivalent to 13.81 mg of C₇H₆O₃.