

Silver nitrate

Silver nitrate (also *lapis*) is a silver salt of nitric acid with the formula AgNO_3 . In medicine, the caustic effect is used to destroy (*lapisate*) verrucae , overgranulated tissue, etc. Complications can be a deeper defect in case of excessive application or the formation of pigment spots.

It finds further use in histology during impregnation with silver in both optical and electron microscopy.^[1] Lapis can also be used to cauterize small wounds.

Previously, the antiseptic effect was used during the so-called credeization , i.e. dripping of a diluted AgNO_3 solution into the conjunctival sacs of newborns to prevent the vertical transmission of gonorrhea . This procedure was introduced by Credé in 1881 as a prevention of neonatal conjunctivitis .^[2] At this time, gonorrheal neonatal conjunctivitis was a major epidemiological problem. In modern medicine, this procedure is overcome by the application of gentler antiseptics (povidone iodine) or local antibiotics, and silver nitrate does not prevent chlamydial infection.^[3]

In dentistry, silver nitrate was previously used to treat aphthous ulcers or mouth ulcers.



10 percent silver nitrate solution for medical use

References

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