Cidofovir is a broad-spectrum antiviral agent with activity against several DNA viruses. In Portugal, it has to be imported but it has been approved by the European Medicines Agency to treat human cytomegalovirus retinitis in specific patient conditions. A sixty-eight-year-old male patient, diagnosed with disseminated infection by molluscum contagiosum, with idiopathic acquired immunodeficiency CD4+ T-cells and pulmonary cryptococcosis, received treatment for three years, with severe erythroderma. He exhibited countless cutaneous lesions, characterized by severe pruritic millimeter papules which affected the majority of his body impairing patient’s life quality. The case was refractory to all on-label available therapies and has been prescribed topical cidofovir.

OBJECTIVES
To share procedures followed after the prescription of a new off-label compounded drug: information research and development of specific procedures for this type of hazardous formulation. Evaluation of treatment effectiveness, three months after the topical cidofovir application in the lower right member.

RESULTS
Numerous studies substantiate the prescription, which led to its approval by the referred hospital boards. Cidofovir 3% cream was compounded from injectable cidofovir (Vistidine®) and incorporated into commercially available fat cream (lipolium®). Due to cidofovir’s mutagenic properties and its associated risk by exposure, this preparation was performed with proper protection equipment and using luer-lock system (syringes and connectors). After three months of treatment, topical cidofovir proved to be effective, as the patient presented with reduced number of lesions and less evidence of pruritus. He referred no symptoms of local irritation (the most reported adverse reaction).

CONCLUSIONS
Off-label therapeutic options should be reserved only for specific cases. However, as long as there are no topical options available, compounding pharmacist can be essential, providing an effective and safe formulation.

Operator’s safety should not be neglected, and the preparation must be carried out with appropriate precautions/protetion equipment. It should be noted that the success of this treatment required the commitment of a multidisciplinary team, with consequent improvement of patient’s life quality.