Shabbat: Squeezing, Dabbing, and Smearing Medicinal Creams

You may squeeze a tube of cream on *Shabbat*, but you might not be able to use the cream on *Shabbat* for other reasons—consult a *rabbi*.

NOTE	Smearing creams or ointments is permitted only in life-threatening situations. Otherwise, you may not smear cream on skin on *Shabbat* (or a *Jewish festival*) even using a *shinu'i* such as using the back of your hand or a toe. Dabbing is permitted, but only when you are permitted to use medicine for that purpose.
EXAMPLE	You may dab cream on *Shabbat* for a bee sting.
REASON	The pain from the sting will affect the entire body.
EXAMPLE	You may not use cream for a mosquito bite.
REASON	It is only a local irritation.
NOTE	You may not smear cream for either condition.

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