

**Comparison of representative topical corticosteroid preparations (classified according to the US system)**

<b>Potency group*</b>	<b>Corticosteroid</b>	<b>Vehicle type/form</b>	<b>Trade names (United States)</b>	<b>Available strength(s), percent (except as noted)</b>
<b>Super-high potency (group 1)</b>	Betamethasone dipropionate, augmented	Ointment, optimized	Diprolene	0.05
		Lotion	Diprolene	0.05
		Gel	Diprolene	0.05
	Clobetasol propionate	Ointment	Temovate	0.05
		Cream	Temovate	0.05
		Cream, emollient base	Temovate E	0.05
		Gel	Temovate	0.05
		Lotion	Clobex	0.05
		Foam aerosol	Olux-E	0.05
		Foam aerosol (scalp)	Olux	0.05
		Shampoo	Clobex	0.05
		Solution (scalp)	Temovate, Cormax	0.05
		Spray aerosol	Clobex	0.05
	Diflucortolone valerate (not available in United States)	Ointment, oily cream	Nerisone Forte (United Kingdom, others)	0.3
	Fluocinonide	Cream	Vanos	0.1
	Flurandrenolide	Tape (roll)	Cordran	4 mcg/cm <sup>2</sup>
Halobetasol propionate	Ointment	Ultravate	0.05	
	Cream	Ultravate	0.05	
	Lotion	Ultravate	0.05	
<b>High potency (group 2)</b>	Amcinonide	Ointment	Cyclocort <sup>¶</sup> , Amcort <sup>¶</sup>	0.1
	Betamethasone dipropionate	Ointment	Diprosone	0.05
		Cream, augmented formulation (AF)	Diprolene AF	0.05
	Clobetasol propionate	Cream	Impoyz	0.025
	Desoximetasone	Ointment	Topicort	0.25
		Cream	Topicort	0.25
		Spray	Topicort	0.25
		Gel	Topicort	0.05

	Diflorasone diacetate	Ointment	ApexiCon <sup>¶</sup> , Florone <sup>¶</sup>	0.05
		Cream, emollient	ApexiCon E	0.05
	Fluocinonide	Ointment	Lidex <sup>¶</sup>	0.05
		Gel	Lidex <sup>¶</sup>	0.05
		Cream anhydrous	Lidex <sup>¶</sup>	0.05
		Solution	Lidex <sup>¶</sup>	0.05
	Halcinonide	Ointment	Halog	0.1
		Cream	Halog	0.1
<b>High potency (group 3)</b>	Amcinonide	Cream	Cyclocort <sup>¶</sup> , Amcort <sup>¶</sup>	0.1
		Lotion	Amcort <sup>¶</sup>	0.1
	Betamethasone dipropionate	Cream, hydrophilic emollient	Diprosone	0.05
	Betamethasone valerate	Ointment	Valisone <sup>¶</sup>	0.1
		Foam	Luxiq	0.12
	Desoximetasone	Cream	Topicort LP	0.05
	Diflorasone diacetate	Cream	Florone <sup>¶</sup>	0.05
	Diflucortolone valerate (not available in United States)	Cream, oily cream, ointment	Nerisone (Canada, United Kingdom, others)	0.1
	Fluocinonide	Cream aqueous emollient	Lidex-E <sup>¶</sup>	0.05
	Fluticasone propionate	Ointment	Cutivate	0.005
	Mometasone furoate	Ointment	Elocon	0.1
Triamcinolone acetonide	Ointment	Kenalog <sup>¶</sup>	0.5	
	Cream	Triderm, Aristocort HP <sup>¶</sup>	0.5	
<b>Medium potency (group 4)</b>	Betamethasone dipropionate	Spray	Sernivo	0.05
	Clocortolone pivalate	Cream	Cloderm	0.1
	Fluocinolone acetonide	Ointment	Synalar <sup>¶</sup>	0.025
	Flurandrenolide	Ointment	Cordran	0.05
	Hydrocortisone valerate	Ointment	Westcort	0.2
	Mometasone furoate	Cream	Elocon	0.1
		Lotion	Elocon	0.1
		Solution	Elocon <sup>¶</sup>	0.1
	Triamcinolone acetonide	Cream	Kenalog <sup>¶</sup>	0.1
Ointment		Kenalog <sup>¶</sup>	0.1	

		Aerosol spray	Kenalog	0.2 mg per 2 second spray
<b>Lower-mid potency (group 5)</b>	Betamethasone dipropionate	Lotion	Diprosone	0.05
	Betamethasone valerate	Cream	Beta-Val, Valisone <sup>¶</sup>	0.1
	Desonide	Ointment	DesOwen, Tridesilon <sup>¶</sup>	0.05
		Gel	Desonate	0.05
	Fluocinolone acetonide	Cream	Synalar <sup>¶</sup>	0.025
	Flurandrenolide	Cream	Cordran	0.05
		Lotion	Cordran	0.05
	Fluticasone propionate	Cream	Cutivate	0.05
		Lotion	Cutivate	0.05
	Hydrocortisone butyrate	Ointment	Locoid	0.1
		Cream	Locoid, Locoid Lipocream	0.1
		Lotion, spray	Cortizone 10 maximum	0.1
		Lotion	Locoid	0.1
		Solution	Locoid	0.1
	Hydrocortisone probutate	Cream	Pandel	0.1
	Hydrocortisone valerate	Cream	Westcort <sup>¶</sup>	0.2
Prednicarbate	Cream, emollient	Dermatop	0.1	
	Ointment	Dermatop	0.1	
Triamcinolone acetonide	Lotion	Kenalog <sup>¶</sup>	0.1	
	Ointment	Kenalog <sup>¶</sup>	0.025	
<b>Low potency (group 6)</b>	Alclometasone dipropionate	Ointment	Aclovate	0.05
		Cream	Aclovate	0.05
	Betamethasone valerate	Lotion	Beta-Val, Valisone <sup>¶</sup>	0.1
	Desonide	Cream	DesOwen, Tridesilon <sup>¶</sup>	0.05
		Lotion	DesOwen, LoKara	0.05
		Foam	Verdeso	0.05
	Fluocinolone acetonide	Cream	Synalar <sup>¶</sup>	0.01
		Solution	Synalar <sup>¶</sup>	0.01
Shampoo		Capex	0.01	
Oil (scalp) <sup>Δ</sup>		Derma-Smoothe/FS Scalp	0.01	

		Oil (body) <sup>Δ</sup>	Derma-Smoothe/FS Body	0.01
	Triamcinolone acetonide	Cream	Kenalog <sup>¶</sup> , Aristocort <sup>¶</sup>	0.025
		Lotion	Kenalog <sup>¶</sup>	0.025
<b>Least potent (group 7)</b>	Hydrocortisone (base, ≥2%)	Ointment	Hytone	2.5
		Cream	Hytone, Nutracort <sup>¶</sup>	2.5
		Lotion	Hytone, Ala Scalp, Scalacort	2.5 or 2
		Solution	Texacort	2.5
	Hydrocortisone (base, <2%)	Ointment	Cortaid, Hytone, Nutracort	1
		Cream	Cortaid, Hytone, Synacort	1
		Lotion	Aquanil HC, Sarnol-HC, Cortizone 10	1
		Spray	Cortaid	1
		Solution	Cortaid, Noble, Scalp relief	1
		Ointment	Cortaid	0.5
		Cream	Cortaid	0.5
	Hydrocortisone acetate with pramoxine 1% combination	Ointment	Pramosone	1 or 2.5
		Cream	Pramosone, Analpram-HC	1 or 2.5
		Lotion	Pramosone, Analpram-HC	1 or 2.5
		Aerosol foam	Epifoam	1

US: United States.

\* Listed by potency according to the US classification system: group 1 is the most potent, group 7 is the least potent. Other countries use a different classification system with only four or five groups.

¶ Inactive United States trade name for specific product; brand may be available outside United States.

Δ 48% refined peanut oil.

Data from:

1. Lexicomp Online. Copyright © 1978-2018 Lexicomp, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
2. Tadicherla S, Ross K, Shenefelt D. Topical corticosteroids in dermatology. *Journal of Drugs in Dermatology* 2009; 12:1093.
3. U.S. Food & Drug Administration Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence (Orange Book). Available at: <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/ob/default.cfm> (Accessed on June 18, 2017).

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# GRAPHICS

## Topical antifungal agents

Drug	Dose	How supplied*
<b>Azoles ¶</b>		
Clotrimazole <sup>Δ</sup>	Twice per day	Cream 1% Ointment 1% Solution 1%
Econazole	Once per day (twice per day for candidiasis)	Cream 1% Foam 1%
Efinaconazole <sup>◇</sup>	Once per day	Solution 10%
Ketoconazole	Once per day (shampoo is usually one use)	Cream 2% Shampoo 2% (1% shampoo is available over-the-counter) Gel 2% Foam 2%
Luliconazole	Once per day	Cream 1%
Miconazole <sup>Δ</sup>	Twice per day	Cream 2% Ointment 2% Solution 2% Lotion 2% Powder 2% Aerosol solution 2% Aerosol powder 2%
Oxiconazole	Once to twice per day	Cream 1% Lotion 1%
Sertaconazole	Twice per day	Cream 2%
Sulconazole	Once or twice per day	Cream 1% Solution 1%
<b>Allylamines §</b>		
Naftifine	Once per day (cream), twice per day (gel)	Cream 1% Cream 2% Gel 1% Gel 2%
Terbinafine <sup>Δ</sup>	Once to twice per day	Cream 1% Gel 1% Spray solution 1%
<b>Benzylamine §</b>		
Butenafine <sup>Δ</sup>	Once per day (twice per day for tinea pedis)	Cream 1%
<b>Polyene: Treats <i>Candida</i> infections only</b>		
Nystatin	Two to three times per day	Cream 100,000 units/gram

		Ointment 100,000 units/gram
		Powder 100,000 units/gram
<b>Other</b>		
Ciclopirox <sup>¥</sup>	Twice per day	Cream 0.77%
		Gel 0.77%
		Suspension 0.77%
		Shampoo 1%
		Solution 8%
Tolnaftate <sup>Δ‡</sup>	Twice per day	Cream 1%
		Powder 1%
		Aerosol:
		Liquid 1%
		Powder 1%
		Solution 1%

\* Preparations available in United States and some other countries.

¶ Azoles have activity against dermatophytes, tinea versicolor, and *Candida*. Sulconazole, oxiconazole, and luliconazole may be less effective for *Candida* infection than other azoles.

Δ Available in over-the-counter (nonprescription) preparations in the United States and some other countries.

◇ Indicated for onychomycosis.

§ Can treat *Candida* in addition to dermatophytes and tinea versicolor but may be less effective than azoles and ciclopirox for *Candida* infection.

¥ Treats dermatophytes, tinea versicolor, and *Candida*.

‡ Does not treat *Candida*; less effective than other options for dermatophytes.

Prepared with data from: US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) approved product information. US National Library of Medicine. (Available online at: <http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/about.cfm>).

## Topical drugs for pediculosis capitis

Pediculicide*	Mechanism of action	Age group	Regimen	Precautions/side effects
Pyrethrins and piperonyl butoxide	Neurotoxin	≥2 years	Leave on hair for 10 minutes, then rinse; repeat on day 9	Skin irritation
Permethrin (1%)	Neurotoxin	≥2 months	Leave on hair for 10 minutes, then rinse; repeat on day 9	Skin irritation; pyrethrins may induce breathing difficulties in patients with ragweed allergy; avoid permethrin in patients with chrysanthemum allergy
Malathion	Neurotoxin	≥6 years; contraindicated in children under 2 years; safety has not been established in children 2 to 6 years	Leave on hair for 8 to 12 hours, then wash with a non-medicated shampoo; a single application may be effective; repeat in 7 to 9 days if live lice are seen	Malodorous, flammable, skin irritation, theoretical risk for respiratory depression if ingested
Benzyl alcohol	Asphyxiation	≥6 months	Leave on hair for 10 minutes, then rinse; repeat after 7 days	Skin and eye irritation, transient skin numbness
Spinosad	Neurotoxin	≥6 months	Leave on hair for 10 minutes, then rinse; repeat in 7 days if live lice remain	Skin irritation
Ivermectin	Neurotoxin	≥6 months	Leave on hair for 10 minutes, then rinse	Skin or eye irritation

\* There is wide variation in the cost of topical pediculicides. In general, pyrethrins and permethrin are the least expensive agents. Current United States pricing information is available in the Lexicomp Drug Information content provided in UpToDate.