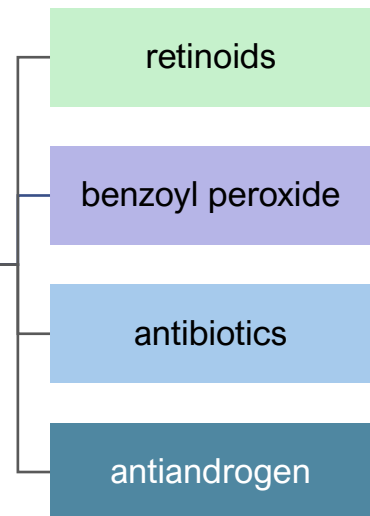




Acne topicals

monotherapy



Medications	Brand name, dosing frequency	Cost per 30 g or 30 mL, B.C. PharmaCare	Comments		
tretinoin	Retin-A 0.025% gel	once daily	\$20	Limited coverage: acne indication only	
	Retin-A 0.05% cream				
	Retin-A Micro 0.04% gel				
	Retin-A Micro 0.1% gel				
adapalene	Differin 0.1% cream	once daily	\$100	non benefit	
	Differin 0.1% gel				
	Differin XP 0.3% gel				
tazarotene	Arazlo 0.045% lotion		\$45	Limited coverage: acne	
trifarotene	Aklief 0.005% cream		\$95	non benefit	
benzoyl peroxide	Benzagel 5% gel	once to three times daily	≤ \$20	Plan B, Plan W	
	Benzagel 5% wash				
	Benzac W 10% wash				
clindamycin	1% solution generic	twice a day	\$15	Regular Benefit	
dapsone	Aczone 5% gel				
clascoterone	Winlevi 1% cream	1 g twice a day	\$270*	non benefit	1 g is ~ 2 fingertip units = \$540/month/60 g.
azelaic acid	Finacea 15% gel	0.5 g twice a day	\$30	Regular benefit	Health Canada indication: rosacea but azelaic acid is also recommended for acne and hyperpigmentation.
hydroquinone	ERFA Hydroquinone 4% gel	twice daily	\$55	non benefit	Health Canada indication: hyperpigmentation (apply only to hyperpigmented areas).

Cost: approximate drug cost per 30 g or 30 mL to allow for relative cost comparisons; products may be supplied in different package sizes.

Pediatrics: no topicals are approved for use in children ages < 9; in general, children ages 9-11 are less well represented in acne topicals clinical trials. Clascoterone is not approved for use in children ages < 12 due to higher rates of systemic adverse events.

Application: apply in a thin layer to clean, dry skin.
Evening application: reasonable strategy for once daily topicals to reduce the potential for photosensitivity and to reduce photo/thermal degradation of susceptible active ingredients.

Retinoids may also reduce hyperpigmentation and scarring although evidence for these outcomes is more limited.
Retinoids are contraindicated during pregnancy or if planning a pregnancy.

Discard expired benzoyl peroxide products.
 Only benzoyl peroxide products covered by PharmaCare are listed here.

Antibiotic monotherapy not recommended: potential for antibiotic resistance.



Acne topicals

combinations

retinoid + benzoyl peroxide

antibiotic + benzoyl peroxide

antibiotic + retinoid

antibiotic + retinoid + benzoyl peroxide

Cost: approximate drug cost per 30 g to allow for relative cost comparisons; products may be supplied in different package sizes.

Combination products: recommended over single drug topicals for initial treatment.

Application: apply in a thin layer to clean, dry skin.
Evening application: reasonable strategy for once daily topicals to reduce the potential for photosensitivity and to reduce photo/thermal degradation of susceptible active ingredients.

Medications	Brand name, dosing frequency	Cost per 30 g, B.C. PharmaCare	Comments	
adapalene 0.1% + benzoyl peroxide 2.5%	Tactupump gel, generics	once daily	non benefit	
adapalene 0.3% + benzoyl peroxide 2.5%	Tactupump Forte gel, generics			\$45
tretinoin 0.1% + benzoyl peroxide 3%	Twyneo cream			\$70
			NA recently approved	
clindamycin 1% + benzoyl peroxide 3%	Clindoxyl Adv gel	once daily	non benefit	
clindamycin 1% + benzoyl peroxide 5%	Clindoxyl gel, generic			\$30
	Benzaclin gel, generic	twice daily	non benefit	
erythromycin 3% + benzoyl peroxide 5%	Benzamycin gel			\$25
			\$35	
			\$55	
clindamycin 1.2% + tretinoin 0.025%	Biacna gel	once daily	non benefit	
clindamycin 1.2% + adapalene 0.15% + benzoyl peroxide 3.1%	Cabtreeo gel	once daily	non benefit	
			\$50	
			\$95	

Retinoid plus benzoyl peroxide: preferred combination in some guidelines rather than one containing a topical antibiotic.
Retinoids may also reduce hyperpigmentation and scarring although evidence for these outcomes more limited.

Adding benzoyl peroxide to a topical antibiotic: may reduce the risk of antibiotic resistance.
Can add a retinoid product separately to achieve triple therapy: apply products at different times.
Benzaclin, Benzamycin: disadvantages include that the products need to be reconstituted at time of dispensing by pharmacists and are dosed twice daily.

Can add a benzoyl peroxide product separately to achieve triple therapy: apply products at different times.

Consider stepping down to two-drug or single-drug topical product once clear or almost clear skin achieved: individual preference-based decision.