

DRUG TABLE ON TOPICAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORIES



This drug table accompanies the ACE Clinical Guideline 'Mild and moderate atopic dermatitis (eczema) – a journey from flare to care'. It lists locally registered atopic dermatitis topical treatments, with information sourced from international literature¹⁻³ and drug information resources. The table follows the **WHO classification system** which categorises topical corticosteroids (TCS) into 4 potency groups: **ultra-high potency (TCS group 1)**, **high potency (TCS group 2 to 3)**, **moderate potency (TCS group 4 to 5)** and **low potency (TCS group 6 to 7)**.⁴ This differs from the '2016 guidelines for the management of atopic dermatitis in Singapore',² by reclassifying certain potent TCS as moderate and certain moderate TCS as low potency to improve primary care treatment selection. Based on network meta-analysis⁵ and recent studies comparing efficacy outcomes,⁶⁻¹⁰ topical calcineurin inhibitors (TCIs) and topical phosphodiesterase-4 inhibitors (PDE4i) have been assigned relative anti-inflammatory equivalencies to specific TCS potency classes. **A full list of combination products with additives is provided for reference (please refer to the main ACG for more information when prescribing such combination product).**

Legend	Ultra-high potency TCS	High potency TCS	Moderate potency TCS	Low potency TCS	non-TCS
	●	●	●	●	●

Drug Class	Potency class or equivalent anti-inflammatory effect	Generic Name ^a	Strength	Formulation	Additive(s), if any
TCS	Ultra-high potency	Clobetasol propionate	0.05%	Ointment, Cream	
TCS	Ultra-high potency	Clobetasol propionate	0.05%	Lotion, Shampoo	
TCS	Ultra-high potency	Betamethasone dipropionate (optimised vehicle)	0.05%	Ointment	
TCS	High potency	Betamethasone dipropionate	0.05%	Ointment, Cream, Gel, Solution	Betamethasone dipropionate 0.05% + Gentamicin sulfate 0.1% (antibiotic) + Clotrimazole 1% (antifungal) [ointment]
					Betamethasone dipropionate 0.05% + Fusidic acid 2% (antibiotic) [ointment, cream]
					Betamethasone dipropionate 0.05% + Gentamicin sulfate 0.1% (antibiotic) [cream]
					Betamethasone dipropionate 0.05% + Salicylic acid 3% (anti-keratolytic) [ointment]
					Betamethasone dipropionate 0.064% + Salicylic acid 2% (anti-keratolytic) [lotion]
TCS	High potency	Betamethasone valerate	0.1%	Ointment	
TCS	High potency	Mometasone furoate	0.1%	Ointment	
TCS	High potency	Diflucortolone valerate	0.1%		Diflucortolone valerate 0.1% + Isoconazole 1% (antifungal) [cream]
TCS	Moderate potency	Betamethasone valerate	0.1%	Cream, Scalp lotion	Betamethasone valerate 0.1% + Clioquinol 3% (antiseptic) [cream]
					Betamethasone valerate 0.1% + Fusidic acid 2% (antibiotic) [cream]
					Betamethasone valerate 0.1% + Gentamicin sulfate 0.1% (antibiotic) [cream]
					Betamethasone valerate 0.1% + Gentamicin sulfate 0.1% (antibiotic) + Miconazole 2% (antifungal) [cream]
					Betamethasone valerate 0.1% + Neomycin 0.5% (antibiotic) [cream]
TCS	Moderate potency	Mometasone furoate	0.1%	Cream, Lotion	
TCS	Moderate potency	Fluticasone propionate	0.05%	Cream	

Drug Class	Potency class or equivalent anti-inflammatory effect	Generic Name ^a	Strength	Formulation	Additive(s), if any
TCI	Equivalent to moderate potency (TCS group 4)	Tacrolimus	0.1%	Ointment	
TCS	Moderate potency	Hydrocortisone aceponate	0.127%	Cream	
TCS	Moderate potency	Betamethasone valerate	0.05%	Ointment, Cream	Betamethasone valerate 0.05% + Clioquinol 3% (antiseptic) [cream]
TCS	Moderate potency	Betamethasone valerate	0.025%	Ointment, Cream	Betamethasone valerate 0.025% + Clioquinol 3% (antiseptic) [cream]
TCS	Moderate potency	Fluocinolone acetonide	0.025%	Cream	
TCI	Equivalent to moderate potency (TCS group 5)	Tacrolimus	0.03%	Ointment	
TCI	Intermediate between moderate and low potency TCS (between TCS group 5 or 6)	Pimecrolimus	1%	Cream	
PDE4i	Less effective than TCS group 5 ^b	Crisaborole	2%	Ointment	
TCS	Low potency	Fluocinolone acetonide	0.0125%, 0.00625%, 0.003125%	Cream	
TCS	Low potency	Desonide	0.05%	Lotion, Cream	
TCS	Low potency	Hydrocortisone	1%, 0.5%	Ointment, Cream	Hydrocortisone 1% + Clioquinol 3% (antiseptic) [cream]
					Hydrocortisone 1% + Fusidic acid 2% (antibiotic) [cream]
					Hydrocortisone 1% + Neomycin 0.5% (antibiotic) [cream]
					Hydrocortisone 1% + Miconazole 2% (antifungal) [cream]
					Hydrocortisone 1% + Miconazole 2% (antifungal) [cream]

TCS, topical corticosteroids; TCI, topical calcineurin inhibitor; PDE4i, topical phosphodiesterase 4 inhibitor

^a Medications **bolded** denote availability on government subsidy list at the time of publication. Please refer to the [Ministry of Health website](#) for the latest list of subsidised medications

^b Moderate potency TCS (group 5) had greater efficacy in reducing AD signs and symptoms compared to crisaborole, while differences between crisaborole and TCIs were not statistically significant (low certainty of evidence)⁶⁻¹⁰

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