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2. Fluocinolone/hydroquinone/tretinoin

Fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical

Generic name: fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical [*FLOO-oh-SIN-oh-lone*, *HYE-droe-KWIN-one*, *TRET-in-oin*]

Brand name: [Tri-Luma](#)

Dosage form: topical cream (0.01%-4%-0.05%)

Drug class: [Topical depigmenting agents](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Feb 25, 2025. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

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What is fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical?

[Fluocinolone](#) is a steroid that reduces inflammation or swelling.

[Hydroquinone](#) is a skin bleaching agent.

[Tretinoin](#) is a form of [vitamin A](#) that helps the skin to renew itself more quickly.

Fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical (for use on the skin) is a combination medicine used to treat [melasma](#) (dark skin patches) on the face.

Fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives, severe [itching](#); difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Stop using fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical and call your doctor at once if you have:

- darkening or discoloration of treated skin;
- irritation of your eyes, nose, or mouth;
- severe skin redness, itching, peeling, blistering, or crusting;
- severe burning or swelling of the skin; or
- **possible signs of absorbing fluocinolone through your skin**--worsening tiredness or muscle weakness; loss of appetite, [diarrhea](#); [weight loss](#) or weight gain (especially in your face or your upper back and torso); slow wound healing, thinning skin, increased body hair; changes in sexual function; [depression](#), [anxiety](#), feeling irritable.

Common side effects of fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical may include:

- acne; or
- mild redness, burning, itching, dryness, or peeling of your skin.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

i [Fluocinolone / hydroquinone / tretinoin topical side effects](#) (more detail)

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Warnings

Avoid exposure to sunlight or tanning beds. Wear protective clothing and use [sunscreen](#) (SPF 30 or higher) when you are outdoors.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical if you are allergic to fluocinolone, hydroquinone, or tretinoin.

To make sure this medicine is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have:

- [asthma](#); or
- a sulfite [allergy](#).

Using fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical during pregnancy could harm the unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or if you become pregnant while using this medicine.

The pill form of tretinoin is known to cause birth defects. Although your skin does not absorb as much tretinoin as if you were taking the medicine by mouth, it may be best not to use fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical if you are pregnant. Talk to your doctor first.

Hormonal contraception ([birth control pills](#), injections, implants, skin patches, and vaginal rings) can cause melasma to get worse. Ask your doctor about using a non hormonal [birth control](#) (condom, diaphragm with spermicide) instead.

It is not known whether fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical passes into breast milk or if it could harm a

nursing baby. Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding a baby.

This medicine is not approved for use by anyone younger than 18 years old.

How should I use fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical?

Follow all directions on your prescription label. Do not use this medicine in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended.

Do not take by mouth. Fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical is for use only on the skin. **If this medicine gets in your eyes or mouth, rinse with water.**

Fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical is usually applied once per day, at least 30 minutes before bedtime. Follow your doctor's instructions.

Gently wash your face with a mild cleanser before applying this medicine. Rinse and pat dry the skin.

Apply a thin film of the medicine only to skin affected by melasma, as well as about 1/2 inch of the surrounding skin. Avoid getting the medicine on your lips or in the creases of your nose.

Do not cover treated skin with a bandage. Bandaging can increase the amount of drug absorbed through your skin and may cause harmful effects.

Wash your hands after applying the medicine.

Fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical is for short-term use only until you get the desired results. This medicine should not be used on a regular basis to prevent further skin discoloration.

Using use this medicine in larger amounts or applying it more often than prescribed will not make it work any faster, and it may increase side effects.

Fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical should be used as part of a complete skin care program that includes avoiding sunlight, using an effective sunscreen (minimum SPF of 30), and wearing protective clothing.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

Do not share this medicine with another person, even if they have the same symptoms you have.

Fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Melasma:

Apply a thin layer to the affected area(s) once a day, at least 30 minutes before bedtime

Comments:

- The affected area(s) should be washed with a mild cleanser and dried before application of this drug.
- Patients should extend application of the cream to approximately 1/2 inch of normal appearing skin (surrounding each lesion), and then the cream should rubbed lightly and uniformly into the skin.
- Treatment should be discontinued once control is achieved.

Use: Short-term treatment of moderate to severe melasma of the face, in combination with sun avoidance measures (e.g.,

sunscreen use)

i [Detailed Fluocinolone / hydroquinone / tretinoin topical dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Use the missed dose as soon as you remember, or wait until the next night to apply the medicine. **Do not** use extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

What happens if I overdose?

An overdose of fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical applied to the skin is not expected to be dangerous. Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222 if anyone has accidentally swallowed the medication.

What should I avoid while using fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical?

Avoid exposure to sunlight or tanning beds. Fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical can make you [sunburn](#) more easily. Wear protective clothing and use sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) when you are outdoors.

Your skin may be more sensitive to weather extremes such as cold and wind. Protect your skin with clothing and use a moisturizing cream or lotion as needed.

Avoid using skin products that can cause irritation, such as harsh soaps, shampoos, or skin cleansers, hair coloring or permanent chemicals, hair removers or waxes, or skin products with alcohol, spices, astringents, or lime. Do not use other medicated skin products unless your doctor has told you to.

What other drugs will affect fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin topical?

It is not likely that other drugs you take orally or inject will have an effect on topically applied fluocinolone, hydroquinone, and tretinoin. But many drugs can interact with each other. Tell each of your health care providers about all medicines you use, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#).

i [Fluocinolone / hydroquinone / tretinoin topical drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does fluocinolone/hydroquinone/tretinoin topical interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

fluocinolone/hydroquinone/tretinoin topical

+

Enter a drug name

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Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

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DRUG STATUS

Availability

Rx Prescription only

[Pregnancy & Lactation](#)

 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*

N/A Not a controlled drug



Approval History

 Drug history at FDA



User Reviews & Ratings

7.5 / 10

[91 Reviews](#)

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