



[Home](#)

2. Fluocinolone

Fluocinolone Cream and other topical products

Generic name: fluocinolone topical [*floo-oh-SIN-oh-lone-TOP-i-kal*]

Brand names: [Capex](#), [Synalar](#)

Drug class: [Topical steroids](#)

Medically reviewed by [Philip Thornton, DipPharm](#). Last updated on Sep 13, 2024.

[Uses](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Side effects](#) [Interactions](#)

What is fluocinolone?

Fluocinolone is a potent corticosteroid that prevents the release of substances in the body that cause inflammation.

Fluocinolone topical (for the skin) is a prescription medicine used to treat inflammation and itching caused by skin conditions that respond to steroid medication.

Fluocinolone topical is available in a cream, gel, ointment, oil, and solution.

Warnings

Do not use fluocinolone to treat diaper rash.

Do not apply fluocinolone to cuts, scrapes, damaged skin, or use on open wounds.

Fluocinolone may affect growth in children and teens in some cases. They may need regular growth checks. Talk with the doctor.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use fluocinolone topical if you are allergic to it.

To make sure fluocinolone is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- any type of [skin infection](#);
- a skin reaction to any steroid medicine;
- liver disease; or
- an adrenal gland disorder.

Steroid medicines can increase the glucose (sugar) levels in your blood or urine. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes.

It is not known whether fluocinolone topical will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.

It may not be safe to breastfeed while using this medicine. Ask your doctor about any risk. If you apply fluocinolone to your chest, avoid areas that may come into contact with the baby's mouth.

Do not use this medicine on a child without medical advice. Children can absorb larger amounts of this medicine through the skin and may be more likely to have side effects.

 [Fluocinolone topical pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

How should I use fluocinolone topical?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Do not take by mouth. Topical medicine is for use only on the skin.

Read and carefully follow any Instructions for Use provided with your medicine. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you do not understand these instructions.

Wash your hands before and after using fluocinolone, unless you are using this medicine to treat the skin on your hands.

Apply a thin layer of medicine to the affected skin and rub it in gently. Do not apply this medicine over a large area of skin unless your doctor has told you to.

Do not cover the treated skin area with a bandage or other covering unless your doctor tells you to. Covering treated areas can increase the amount of medicine absorbed through your skin and may cause harmful effects.

If you are treating the diaper area, do not use plastic pants or tight-fitting diapers.

Shake fluocinolone **shampoo** well just before each use. Apply to the scalp and work into a lather, rinsing thoroughly after 5 minutes.

Call your doctor if your symptoms do not improve after 2 weeks of using this medicine.

You should not stop using fluocinolone suddenly. Follow your doctor's instructions about tapering your dose.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat. Do not freeze.

 [Detailed Fluocinolone topical dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Apply the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. Do not apply two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222 if anyone has accidentally swallowed the medication.

High doses or long-term use of fluocinolone topical can lead to thinning skin, easy bruising, changes in body fat (especially in your face, neck, back, and waist), increased [acne](#) or facial hair, menstrual problems, [impotence](#), or loss of interest in sex.

What should I avoid while using fluocinolone topical?

Avoid applying fluocinolone topical to your face, underarms, or groin area.

Do not use fluocinolone topical to treat any skin condition that has not been checked by your doctor.

Fluocinolone topical side effects

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

Call your doctor at once if you have:

- worsening of your skin condition;
- redness, warmth, swelling, oozing, or severe irritation of any treated skin;
- high blood sugar--increased thirst, increased urination, dry mouth, fruity breath odor; or
- possible signs of absorbing this medicine through your skin--weight gain (especially in your face or your upper back and torso), slow wound healing, thinning or discolored skin, increased body hair, muscle weakness, [nausea](#), [diarrhea](#), tiredness, mood changes, menstrual changes, sexual changes.

Common fluocinolone side effects may include:

- burning, itching, or irritation of treated skin;
- increased hair growth;
- white or "pruned" appearance of the skin;
- rash, [pimples](#); or
- changes in color of treated 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 topical side effects](#) (more detail)

Related/similar drugs

Dupixent

Dupixent may be used to treat eczema, eosinophilic or oral-corticosteroid-dependent asthma, chronic ...

Reviews & ratings

7.2 / 10

[499 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Stelara

Stelara (ustekinumab) is used to treat Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, plaque psoriasis, and ...

Reviews & ratings

7.6 / 10

[252 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

FEATURED

Skyrizi

Skyrizi (risankizumab) is used to treat plaque psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, ulcerative colitis ...

Reviews & ratings

7.9 / 10

[56 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Rinvoq

Rinvoq (upadacitinib) is used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, atopic ...

Reviews & ratings

7.0 / 10

[223 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Humira

Humira is a tumor necrosis factor blocker that is used to treat many inflammatory conditions such ...

Reviews & ratings

6.4 / 10

[698 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Betamethasone topical

Betamethasone topical is available as a cream, gel, ointment, lotion, foam or spray and treats ...

Reviews & ratings

8.3 / 10

[56 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Hydrocortisone topical

Hydrocortisone cream is used to treat eczema, dermatitis, psoriasis, hemorrhoids, insect bites or ...

Reviews & ratings

7.0 / 10

[63 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

What other drugs will affect fluocinolone topical?

Medicine used on the skin is not likely to be affected by other drugs you use. But many drugs can interact with each other. Tell each of your healthcare providers about all medicines you use, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#).

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

Does fluocinolone topical interact with my other drugs?

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

fluocinolone topical

+

Enter a drug name

Add

More about fluocinolone topical

- [Check interactions](#)

- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(9\)](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Drug class: topical steroids](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)

Patient resources

- [Fluocinolone \(Topical application\) advanced reading](#)
- [Fluocinolone Oil](#)
- [Fluocinolone Oil \(Body Oil\)](#)
- [Fluocinolone Oil \(Scalp Oil\)](#)
- [Fluocinolone Shampoo](#)

Other brands

[Synalar](#), [Derma-Smoothe/FS \(Body Oil\)](#), [Capex](#), [Derma-Smoothe/FS \(Scalp\)](#), [Derma-Smoothe/FS](#)

Professional resources

- [Fluocinolone Acetonide \(Topical\) monograph](#)
- [Fluocinolone \(FDA\)](#)
- [Fluocinolone Cream \(FDA\)](#)
- [Fluocinolone Oil \(FDA\)](#)
- [Fluocinolone Ointment \(FDA\)](#)

Other brands

[Synalar](#), [Capex](#), [Synalar Ointment](#), [Derma-Smoothe/FS](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Atopic Dermatitis](#)
- [Dermatitis](#)
- [Eczema](#)
- [Lichen Planopilaris](#)

Further information

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

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

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 7.01.

DRUG STATUS

Availability		
 Rx and/or OTC		
Pregnancy & Lactation		
 Risk data available		
CSA Schedule*		
N/A	Not a controlled drug	▼
Approval History		
	Drug history at FDA	▼

User Reviews & Ratings

9.1 / 10

[9 Reviews](#)

Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



About

- [About Drugs.com](#)
- [Advertising policy](#)
- [Attribution & citations](#)

Terms & privacy

- [Terms of use](#)
- [Editorial policy](#)
- [Privacy policy](#)

Support

- [Help center](#)
- [Sitemap](#)
- [Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

Drugs.com provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.

