



[Home](#)

2. Azelex

Azelex

Generic name: [azelaic acid topical](#) [ay-ze-LAY-ik-AS-id-TOP-i-kal]

Brand names: Azelex, [Finacea](#), Finacea Plus

Drug classes: [Topical acne agents](#), [Topical anti-rosacea agents](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Aug 3, 2023. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

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

What is Azelex?

Azelex (for the skin) is used to [pimples](#) caused by [rosacea](#). Azelex may not be effective in treating skin redness.

Azelex may also be used for purposes not listed in this medicine guide.

Azelex side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction:** hives; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

This medicine may cause serious side effects. Stop using this medicine and call your doctor at once if you have:

- severe burning, stinging, or warmth;
- severe [itching](#) or tingling;
- severe redness, dryness, peeling, or other irritation;
- changes in skin color; or
- new or worsening breathing problems.

Common side effects of Azelex may include:

- pain, burning, stinging, or tingling;
- dry or scaly skin; o
- itching or other irritation.

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.



[Azelex side effects](#) (more detail)

Related/similar drugs

Soolantra

Soolantra (ivermectin) is used to treat rosacea. Includes Soolantra side effects, interactions and ...

Reviews & ratings

7.7 / 10

[299 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

FEATURED

Ozempic

Learn about Ozempic (semaglutide) for type 2 diabetes treatment, weight management, cardiovascular ...

Reviews & ratings

6.6 / 10

[1,504 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Accutane

Accutane (isotretinoin) is a form of vitamin A and is used to treat severe nodular acne. Includes ...

Reviews & ratings

7.9 / 10

[657 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Warnings

Use only as directed. Tell your doctor if you use other medicines or have other medical conditions or allergies.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use Azelex if you are allergic to [azelaic acid](#) or propylene glycol.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had [asthma](#).

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

If you breastfeed, avoid applying this medicine to your nipple area.

Not approved for use by anyone younger than 18 years old.

How should I use Azelex?

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.

Wash your hands before and after applying this medicine.

Shake the **foam** well before each use.

Clean the affected area with a mild soap or a soap-free cleansing lotion and pat dry with a soft towel. Apply the medication as directed.

Do not apply to sunburned, windburned, dry, chapped, irritated, or broken skin.

Do not cover the treated skin area with a bandage unless your doctor tells you to.

Your symptoms may not improve for up to 4 weeks. Call your doctor if your symptoms do not improve after 12 weeks of treatment.

Tell your doctor if you have excessive burning, dryness, or skin irritation.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat. Throw away the **foam** 8 weeks after opening.

Azelex **foam** is flammable. Do not use near high heat or open flame. Do not smoke until the gel has completely dried on your skin.

 [Detailed Azelex 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 medicine.

What should I avoid while using Azelex?

Rinse with water if Azelex gets in your eyes, nose, mouth, rectum, or vagina. Call your doctor if you have ongoing irritation after getting this medicine in your eyes.

Avoid using other medications on the areas you treat with Azelex unless your doctor tells you to.

Avoid using skin products that can cause irritation, such as harsh soaps or skin cleansers, or skin products with alcohol, spices, astringents, or lime.

Your doctor may recommend avoiding spicy foods, hot foods or drinks, alcoholic beverages and other foods or beverages that may cause flushing or redness of the skin during treatment with Azelex.

What other drugs will affect Azelex?

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 [Azelex drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does Azelex interact with my other drugs?

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

Azelex

+

Enter a drug name

Add

Frequently asked questions

- [Can Finacea help with wrinkles or acne or aging?](#)
- [How much does Finacea cost without insurance?](#)
- [How long does it take for Finacea to work?](#)
- [How do you use Finacea foam?](#)

More about Azelex (azelaic acid topical)

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(10\)](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Drug class: topical acne agents](#)

- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

Patient resources

- [Azelex advanced reading](#)

Other brands

[Finacea](#)

Professional resources

- [Azelex prescribing information](#)
- [Azelaic Acid \(Topical\) \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Other brands

[Finacea](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Rosacea](#)
- [Acne](#)

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.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

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

DRUG STATUS

Availability	
Rx	Prescription only
Pregnancy & Lactation	
	Risk data available
CSA Schedule*	
N/A	Not a controlled drug
Approval History	
	FDA approved 1995

User Reviews & Ratings

8.3 / 10

[10 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.



ADVERTISEMENT

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

