

[Home](#)

2. Clindamycin/tretinoin

Clindamycin and tretinoin (topical)

Generic name: clindamycin and tretinoin (topical) [*klin-da-MYE-sin-and-TRET-i-noyn-TOP-i-kal*]

Brand names: [Veltin](#), [Ziana](#)

Dosage form: topical gel (1.2%-0.025%)

Drug class: [Topical acne agents](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Jul 1, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

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

What is clindamycin and tretinoin topical?

[Clindamycin](#) is an [antibiotic](#). It fights bacteria in the body.

[Tretinoin](#) is a form of [vitamin A](#). It reduces the amount of oil released by oil glands in your skin, and helps your skin renew itself more quickly.

Clindamycin and tretinoin is a combination medicine used to treat severe nodular acne in adults and children who are at least 12 years old.

Clindamycin and tretinoin topical may also be used for purposes other than those listed in this medication guide.

Clindamycin and tretinoin topical side effects

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

clindamycin and tretinoin may cause serious side effects. Stop using clindamycin and tretinoin and call your doctor at once if you have:

- severe redness, burning, stinging, or scaling of treated skin areas; or
- [diarrhea](#) that is watery or bloody.

Common side effects of clindamycin and tretinoin may include:

- mild skin irritation, dryness or peeling;
- mild skin redness; or
- [itching](#) 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.

 [Clindamycin / tretinoin topical side effects](#) (more detail)

Related/similar drugs

FEATURED

Omvox

Omvox is used to treat moderate to severe ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease in adults. This ...

Reviews & ratings

[1 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Soolantra

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

Reviews & ratings

7.7 / 10

[299 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Tazorac

Tazorac cream and gel is used to treat acne and plaque psoriasis. Includes Tazorac side effects ...

Reviews & ratings

7.9 / 10

[38 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Warnings

You should not use this medication if you have [ulcerative colitis](#), [Crohn's disease](#), inflammation of your intestines (also called enteritis), or if you have ever had severe diarrhea caused by antibiotic medicine.

You should not use clindamycin and tretinoin topical if you are also taking another antibiotic called [erythromycin](#), or using other skin medications that contain erythromycin.

Before taking this medicine

Although clindamycin and tretinoin is applied to the skin, your body may absorb enough clindamycin to affect certain medical conditions you may have.

You should not use this medication if you are allergic to clindamycin or tretinoin, or if you have:

- inflammation of your intestines (also called enteritis);
- Crohn's disease, ulcerative [colitis](#); or
- if you have ever had severe diarrhea caused by antibiotic medicine.

You should not use clindamycin and tretinoin topical if you are also taking another antibiotic called erythromycin, or using other skin medications that contain erythromycin.

To make sure clindamycin and tretinoin topical is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have:

- any allergies; or
- a history of stomach or intestinal disorders.

FDA [pregnancy category](#) C. It is not known whether clindamycin and tretinoin topical will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant while using this medication.

It is not known whether clindamycin and tretinoin topical passes into breast milk or if it could harm a nursing baby. You should not breast-feed while using this medicine.

This medicine should not be used on a child younger than 12 years old.

How should I use clindamycin 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. **Using more medicine or applying it more often than prescribed will not make it work any faster, and may increase side effects.**

Wash your hands before and after applying this medication.

Wash your face with a mild soap or cleanser and pat the skin dry with a clean towel.

Use only a pea-sized amount of clindamycin and tretinoin topical. Apply to your entire face every night at bedtime.

Do not wash your face more than 3 times daily while using this medication. Washing more often or scrubbing your face when you wash it can make your acne worse.

Avoid getting this medication in your eyes, mouth, or nose (or in the creases of your nose), or on your lips. If it does get into any of these areas, wash with water. Do not apply this medicine to sunburned, windburned, dry, chapped, irritated, or broken skin.

Use this medication for the full prescribed length of time, even if you think it is not working. Call your doctor if skin irritation becomes severe or if your acne does not improve after several weeks of using this medicine.

If you need [surgery](#), tell the surgeon ahead of time that you are using clindamycin and tretinoin topical.

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

Clindamycin and tretinoin dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Acne:

At bedtime, squeeze a pea-sized amount of medication into one fingertip, dot it onto the chin, cheeks, nose, and forehead, and then gently rub over the entire face.

Comments: Avoid the eyes, lips, and mucous membranes. This medication is not for oral, ophthalmic, intranasal or intravaginal use.

Use: Topical treatment of [acne vulgaris](#) in patients 12 years or older.

Usual Pediatric Dose for Acne:

Patients 12 years through 18 years: At bedtime, squeeze a pea-sized amount of medication into one fingertip, dot it onto the chin, cheeks, nose, and forehead, and then gently rub over the entire face.

Comments: Avoid the eyes, lips, and mucous membranes. This medication is not for oral, ophthalmic, intranasal or intravaginal use.

Use: Topical treatment of acne vulgaris in patients 12 years or older.

 [Detailed Clindamycin / tretinoin topical dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Use the medication as soon as you remember the missed dose. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and use the medicine at your next regularly scheduled time. **Do not** use extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

What should I avoid while using clindamycin and tretinoin topical?

Avoid washing treated skin or applying other skin products for at least 1 hour after applying clindamycin and tretinoin.

Avoid using other medications on the areas you treat with clindamycin and tretinoin topical unless your doctor tells you to. 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.

Antibiotic medicines can cause diarrhea, which may be a sign of a new [infection](#). If you have diarrhea that is watery or bloody, stop using this medicine and call your doctor. Do not use anti-diarrhea medicine unless your doctor tells you to.

Clindamycin and tretinoin topical can make you [sunburn](#) more easily. Apply [sunscreen](#) (SPF 30 or higher) every morning and throughout the day as needed. Avoid exposure to sunlight or tanning beds.

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.

What other drugs will affect clindamycin and tretinoin topical?

It is not likely that other drugs you take orally or inject will have an effect on topically applied clindamycin 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 [Clindamycin / tretinoin topical drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does clindamycin/tretinoin topical interact with my other drugs?

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

clindamycin/tretinoin topical

+

Enter a drug name

Add

More about clindamycin / tretinoin topical

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(187\)](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Drug class: topical acne agents](#)
- [En español](#)

Patient resources

- [Clindamycin and tretinoin advanced reading](#)

Other brands

[Veltin](#), [Ziana](#)

Professional resources

- [Clindamycin and Tretinoin Gel prescribing information](#)

Other brands

[Veltin, Ziana](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Acne](#)

Further information

- Your pharmacist has information about clindamycin and tretinoin topical written for health professionals that you may read.

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: 2.01.

Antibiotics 101

[List of Common Antibiotics & Types](#)

[Antibiotics and Alcohol](#)

[Probiotics and Antibiotics](#)


[Antibiotics for Strep Throat](#)


[Antibiotics for a Tooth Infection](#)

[Antibiotics for UTI's](#)

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

7.7 / 10

[187 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.



Ad Choices
ADVERTISEMENT



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