

Common Skin Conditions: Services you can provide

Nicki Ball

Dermatology Clinical
Educator

Learning Outcomes

- Recognise features of common skin conditions – eczema, psoriasis, acne and rosacea
- Understand treatments available that can be prescribed and recommended within a pharmacy setting
- Increase your confidence to treat common skin conditions so patient avoids GP visit
- Discuss upcoming PGDs for using hydrocortisone and also treating impetigo
- Describe top tips on using whole range of treatments that patients may have been prescribed which will aid concordance
- Discuss when patients may need further invention and who patients may be signposted to



Eczema

Eczema, also known as dermatitis, is an inflammation of the skin¹

Mild cases – skin is red, dry, itchy skin¹

Severe cases – weeping, crusting and bleeding¹

Affects people of all ages but primarily seen in children





Several different forms exist, each of which have distinct signs and symptoms²

They can differ greatly with regards to cause, clinical presentation, exacerbating factors and duration^{2,3}

Treatment and management approaches must reflect these differences³



Types of Eczema¹

			
Atopic	Contact	Seborrhoeic	Discoid
Refers to a personal and family tendency to develop eczema, asthma and/or hay fever.	Is the most common type of work related skin disease.	Tends to affect the scalp, face, torso and flexures.	Is very distinct with 'coin shaped' discs of eczema the size of a fifty pence piece.

Types of Eczema¹



Pompholyx

Key characteristic is blistering that is restricted to the hands and feet.



Asteatotic

Almost always affects people over the age of 60.



Varicose

Also called gravitational or stasis eczema) is common later in life.

1. National Eczema Society. Types of Eczema. <http://www.eczema.org/types-of-eczema>.

Stepped Treatment Approach¹

Mild	Moderate	Severe
Emollients	Emollients	Emollients
Mild potency topical corticosteroids	Moderate potency topical corticosteroids	Potent topical corticosteroids
	Topical calcineurin inhibitors	Topical calcineurin inhibitors
	Bandages and dressings	Bandages and dressings
		Phototherapy
		Systemic therapy

1. NICE Guidance. <http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/eczema>.

Total Emollient Therapy

Emollients are applied as¹⁻³:

- Leave-on (applied directly to skin)
- Soap substitutes (specially designed product for washing)
- Bath and shower oils (added to water or directly to skin in shower)

Leave on emollients²:

- Lotions
- Creams
- Gels
- Ointments/Spray

BATHE 2018 found no additional benefit of pouring emollient additives into bath if using leave on emollients and soap substitutes³

Emollient Types¹

Lotions - cooling on evaporation and good for hairy areas/weeping areas

Creams – emulsion of oil in water (60%). Contain preservatives which can lead to allergic reactions but are often preferred for daytime use or on wet skin

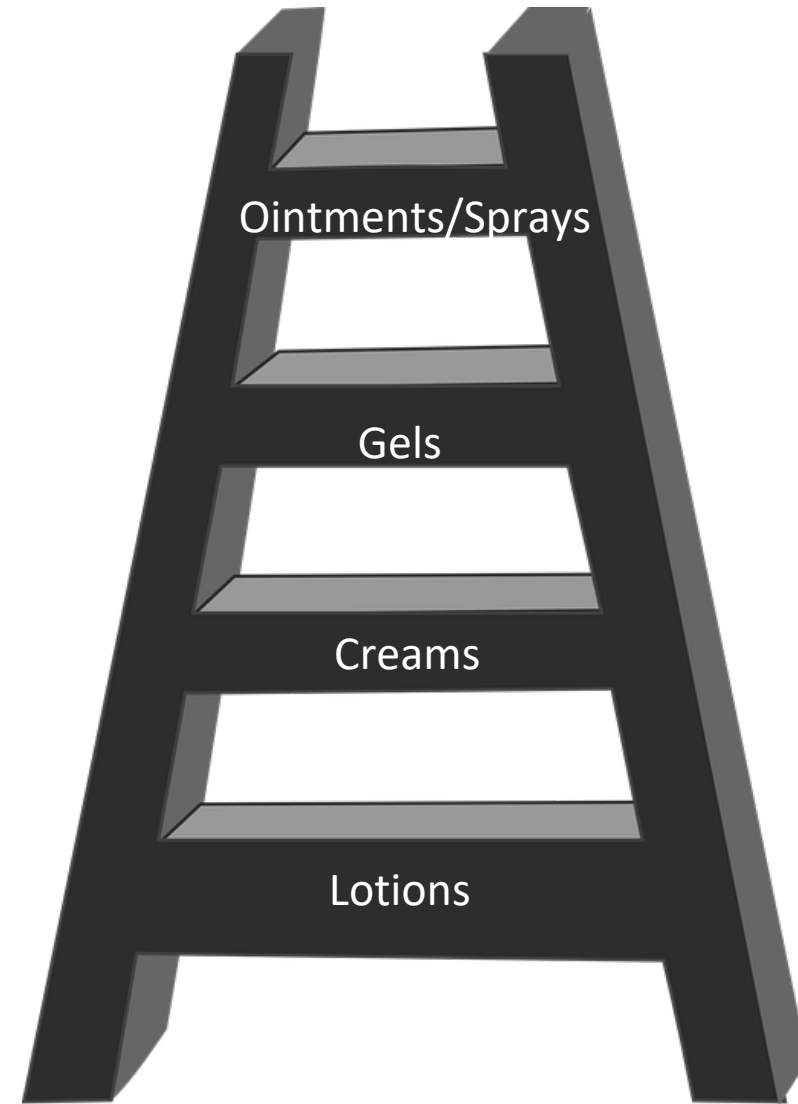
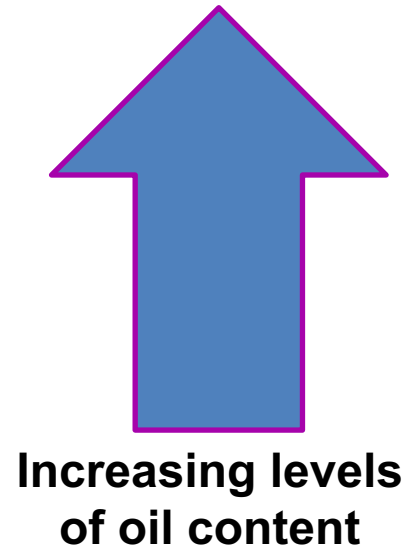
Ointments – greasier, thicker, can stain clothes, but better occlusion and hydration. Ointments should not be used on weeping eczema.

Bath and Shower Oils – ideal for people with extensive areas of very dry skin

Hydrating Gels – have a consistency between cream and ointment. Good for hair bearing sites

Aerosol sprays – are good for fragile or painful skin, children like them, elderly (who may not be able to reach areas)

Leave On Emollient Oil Content¹



1. NES Emollient Factsheet. 2016. <http://www.eczema.org/emollients>.

Application of leave on emollients

Frequency

- Use frequently ideally every few hours but at least twice a day

Where to apply

- Apply to all skin, not just areas of dryness

Bathing

- After every bath or shower, pat skin dry and immediately reapply leave on emollient

How to apply

- Apply emollient in direction of hair growth – downward stroking, avoid rubbing up and down

Use with other treatments

- Use emollients alongside other prescribed treatments. Leave a period of 20 – 30 minutes between two treatments

Decant ointments

- Avoid putting fingers in to pots of ointments – use a spoon or spatula to take out the right amount

Mainstay of all treatment

- Continue to use the emollient even when the dryness has improved

Topical Steroids¹

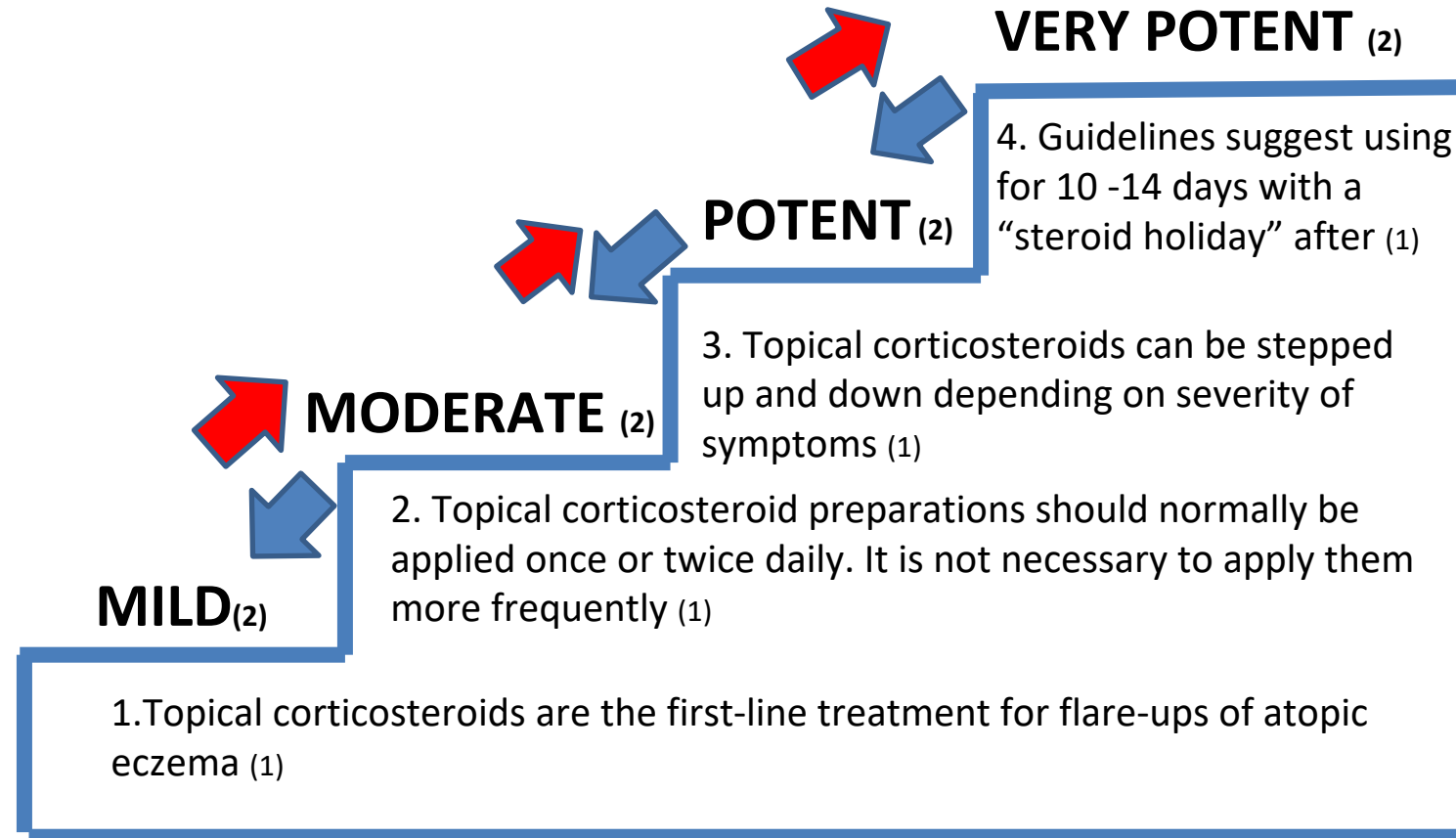
Strengths:

- Mild
- Moderate
- Potent
- Very Potent

Formulations:

- Ointments
- Creams
- Lotions
- Scalp applications
- Shampoos and mousses
- Impregnated tape

Tailoring Topical Steroid Treatment¹⁻³

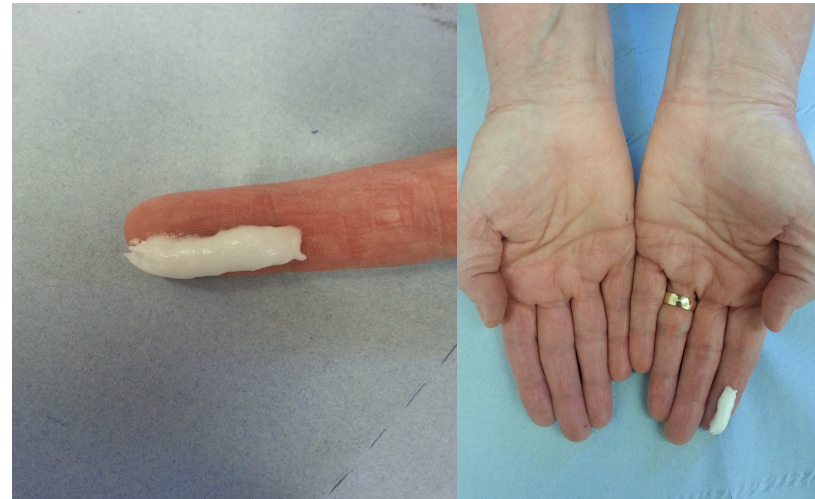


Finger Tip Unit¹

One FTU is the amount of topical steroid that is squeezed out from a standard tube along an adult's fingertip

A fingertip is from the very end of the index finger to the first crease in the finger

One FTU is enough to treat an area of skin twice the size of the flat of an adult's hand with the fingers together



Please consult individual SPCs for licensed indications

1. NES Topical Steroids Factsheet. 2016. <http://www.eczema.org/corticosteroids>

Impetigo



- Caused by Staph A
- Can be mixed infection
- Contagious
- Thin roofed vesicles
- Yellow exudate
- Mainly face & neck
- Lesions heal centrally

Treatment of Impetigo

Non-bullous infection - topical or oral antibiotics

Mild/Local infections –

- Topical fusidic acid 7 – 10 days (mupirocin if resistant)
- Cover area affected
- Wash hands regularly
- Separate towels and flannels

More widespread

- Oral antibiotic 7 days

Persistent or recurrent infection

- Nasal Mupirocin 5 days both nostrils
- Antimicrobial soap substitute

Bullous infection usually requires treatment with an oral antibiotic



Acne - Background

- Acne is a common and chronic disorder of the pilosebaceous unit¹
- Acne manifests in areas with larger, more numerous sebaceous glands, such as the face, neck, back, chest, shoulders and upper arms¹
- Acne lesions can be separated into^{1,2}:
 - Inflammatory (papules, pustules or nodules/cysts)
 - Non-inflammatory (closed or open comedones, microcomedones)
- Most people with acne have a mixture of inflammatory and non-inflammatory lesions²



www.dermquest.com/imagelibrary/acnevulgaris/033510H






www.dermquest.com/imagelibrary/acnevulgaris/035285H



www.dermquest.com/imagelibrary/acnevulgaris/033781V

Grading

- There is no universally agreed grading system¹
- Acne is often categorised by lesion type and severity into^{1,2}:

LESION TYPE	MILD	MODERATE	SEVERE
Non-inflammatory: Comedones			
Inflammatory: Papules, Pustules or Nodules/ Cysts	<20	20-100	>100
TOTAL	<30	30-125	>125

1. NICE CKS <https://cks.nice.org.uk/acne-vulgaris>. 2. Gold MH, et al. *J Clin Aesthet Dermatol*. 2009;2(4):40-44.

PCDS Guidance – Acne

Treatment graded by the predominant present	Comedones	Papules	Pustules	Nodules/Cysts*
Topical Retinoid Tretinoin, Isotretinoin & Adapalene	+++	++	+	+
Benzoyl Peroxide (BPO)		+++	+++	+
Azelaic Acid 20% – Skinoren	+	++	++	+
Topical Antibiotics		++	+++	
Topical Retinoid/BPO – Epiduo	+	++	+++	+
Topical Retinoid/ Antibiotic Combination – Treclin	+	++	+++	
Topical Antibiotic/ BPO Combination – Duac		++	+++	
Oral Antibiotics		++	+++	+++
Combined Oral Contraceptives (for females only)		++	++	++
Legend +++ Strong recommendation ++ Moderate recommendation + Low recommendation				

1. Bewley T, et al. http://www.pcds.org.uk/ee/images/uploads/general/Acne_Treatment_2015-web.pdf.

*Treatment can be initiated, but patients should be referred. Please consult individual SPCs for licensed indication

Practical Advice for Managing Acne

- Topical retinoids should be used for all grades of acne¹
- Irritation with topical retinoids and BPO can be ameliorated by gradual introduction¹
- Concurrent use with light non-comedogenic emollients may be useful¹
- Azelaic acid may be beneficial in patients with darker skin¹
- BPO can cause bleaching of fabric¹
- Oral antibiotics should not be used as sole treatment¹
- Combine systemic antibiotics with topical agents to reduce bacterial resistance²
- All treatments should be routinely reviewed at 12 weeks²

Please consult individual SPCs for licensed indications

Self Care¹

- Avoid picking and squeezing spots
- Early intervention can help avoid permanent scarring
- Treatments used correctly can take at least two months to show improvement
- Irritation may occur with treatments so build up treatments gradually
- Use oil-free or non-comedogenic soap substitutes, moisturisers and makeup
- Little evidence that foods cause acne, but a balanced diet will benefit health overall

1. BAD Acne. 2017. <http://www.bad.org.uk/shared/get-file.ashx?id=65&itemtype=document>.

Rosacea - Background

Rosacea is a common and chronic inflammatory disorder, affecting the cheeks, nose, chin and forehead¹⁻³



Clinical features include flushing, erythema, papules and pustules, telangiectasias, dryness, burning, edema, or skin thickening^{2,4,5}

Many patients have >1 of these clinical features⁵



There is no diagnostic test for rosacea⁶



2002 NRS Diagnostic Subtypes¹

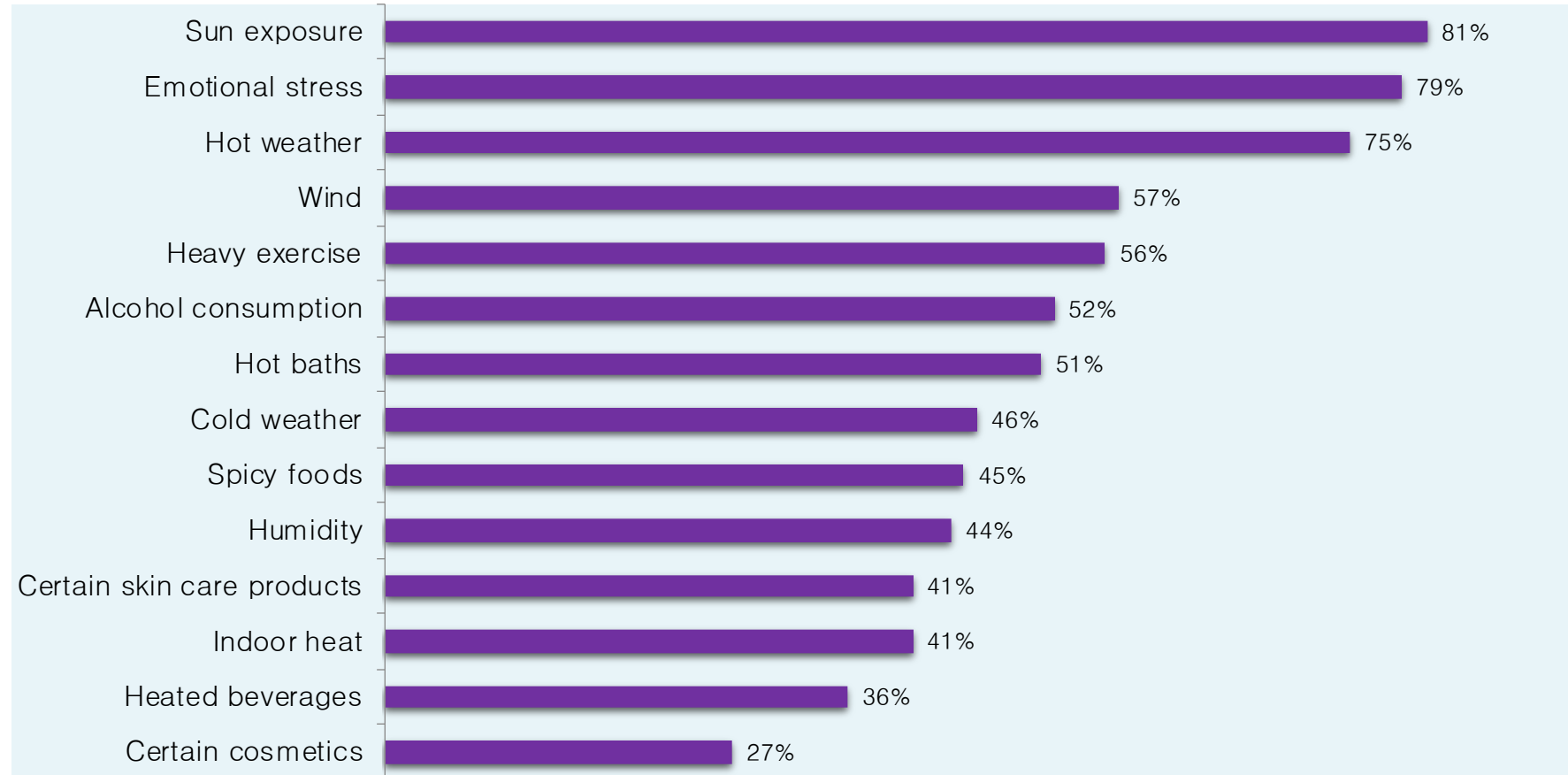
Subtype 1	Subtype 2
Erythematotelangiectatic	Papulopustular
	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flushing and persistent central facial erythema +/-telangiectasia• Sparing of periocular and nasolabial region• Oedema, stinging/ burning, scaling may be present	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Central facial erythema and telangiectasia• Transient pustules and/or papules present centrally or peri-orally.• Frequently associated burning/ stinging

2002 NRS Diagnostic Subtypes¹

Subtype 3	Subtype 4
Phymatous	Ocular
	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thickening skin, irregular surface nodularities with enlargement and prominent pores• Tissue hyperplasia• Typically on the nose (Rhinophyma)• Males > females 10:1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Burning , stinging, dryness• Foreign-body sensation• Eye photosensitivity, itching, blurred vision• Telangiectasia of conjunctiva + lid margin, stye, infections.• Lid/periorcular erythema• Blephritis, conjunctivitis

1. Wilkin J, et al. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2002;46(4):584-587.

Rosacea Triggers¹



1. NRS. <http://www.rosacea.org/patients/materials/triggersgraph.php>.

PCDS Guidance – Rosacea¹

Product	Flushing, Erythema & Telangiectasia	Papules & Pustules	Ocular
Ivermectin 1% Cream (Soolantra®)		+++	
Azelaic Acid Gel (Finacea 15%®)		++	
Metronidazole Gel or Cream 0.75% (Acea®, Metrogel®, Metrosa®, Rosiced®, Rozex®, Zyomet®)		+	
Brimonidine Gel 0.33% (Mirvaso®)	++		
Eye Lubricants			+++
Doxycycline MR 40mg (Efracea®)		+++	
Doxycycline 100mg Lymecycline 408mg caps (Tetralysal®)		++	++
Oxytetracycline 250-500mg		+	+
Erythromycin/Clarithromycin 250-500mg		+	
Isotretinoin		++	
Intense Pulsed Light (IPL)	+++		
Pulsed Dye Laser (PDL)	++		
Clonidine 25-50mcg	++		
Propranolol 10-40mg	+		
Carvedilol 3.125-6.25mg	+		
Legend +++ Strong recommendation ++ Moderate recommendation + Low recommendation			

Please consult individual SPCs for licensed indication

1. Frow H, et al. 2016. Available at http://www.pcds.org.uk/ee/images/uploads/general/Rosacea_PCDS.pdf.

Management

+++ Strong recommendation

++ Moderate recommendation

+ Low recommendation

Subtype 1 Erythematotelangiectatic



- +++ Intense Pulsed Light
- ++ Brimonidine Gel 0.33%
- ++ Pulsed Dye Laser
- ++ Clonidine 25-50 mcg TDS
- + Propranolol 10-40mg TDS
- + Carvedilol 3.125-6.25mg TDS

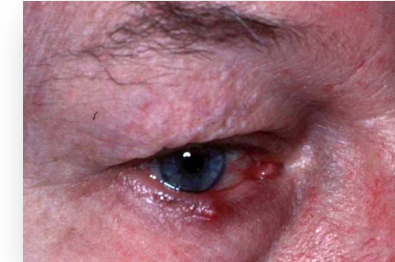
Subtype 2 Inflammatory Papulopustular



- +++ Ivermectin 10mg/g cream 1%
- +++ MR Doxycycline 40mgs OD
- ++ Doxycycline 100mg/
Lymecycline 408mg
- ++ Azelaic Acid 15%
- ++ Isotretinoin
- + Metronidazole gel/cream 0.75%
- + Oxytetracycline 250-500mgs b.d
- + Erythromycin/Clarythromycin 250-500mgs b.d

Please consult individual SPCs for licensed indications.

Subtype 4 Ocular



- +++ Eyelid hygiene measures, ocular lubricants
- ++ Doxycycline 100mg/
lymecycline 408mg OD
- + Oxytetracycline 250-500mg BD
- Refer to ophthalmologist

Self Care^{1,2}

Provide patient with BAD PIL

Protect skin with perfume-free sun block

Avoid rubbing or scrubbing the face

Avoid perfumed soaps

Avoid exacerbating factors

Generally emollients are soothing

Use an unperfumed moisturiser on a regular basis

Psoriasis



Background



Psoriasis is a complicated, chronic inflammatory, multi-aetiological auto-immune condition¹⁻³

- Non-contagious and re-occurring^{2,3}
- Predominantly affects skin, nails and joints^{2,3}

Characterized by well-demarcated, erythematous plaques with silver scale and associated with a variety of comorbidities¹

Aetiology remains unclear, although there is evidence for genetic predisposition²

Recent research shows the role of the immune system in psoriasis causation^{2,3}

Psoriasis can also be provoked by external and internal triggers²

Other presentations, such as guttate, pustular, erythrodermic, inverse, and nail psoriasis also occur¹

Clinical Manifestations¹



Chronic Plaque

Most common form, usually present with symmetrically distributed cutaneous plaques



Guttate Psoriasis

Abrupt appearance of multiple small psoriatic papules and plaques



Pustular Psoriasis

Can have life-threatening complications, most severe variant (von Zumbusch) presents with the acute onset of widespread erythema, scaling, and sheets of superficial pustules



Erythrodermic

Uncommon manifestation that may be acute or chronic. It is characterized by generalized erythema and scaling from head to toe

1. Feldman SR. <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/epidemiology-clinical-manifestations-and-diagnosis-of-psoriasis>.

Clinical Manifestations^{1,2}



Scalp Psoriasis

Affects approximately 50% of patients



Inverse Psoriasis

Involves the intertriginous areas, including the inguinal, perineal, genital, intergluteal, axillary, or inframammary regions



Nail Psoriasis

Most often noted after the onset of cutaneous disease, but also may occur concurrently or prior, occasionally, nail involvement is the only manifestation of psoriasis



Psoriatic Arthritis

Affects approximately 10-30% of those with skin symptoms; usually in the hands and feet and, occasionally, the large joints

Stepped Treatment¹⁻³

Therapeutic options should be tailored to meet individual patients' needs.¹

Topical Therapy¹

- Emollients
- Coal tar
- Dithranol
- Salicylic acid
- Vitamin D/Vitamin D analogues
- Corticosteroids
- Calcineurin inhibitors
- Retinoids

Phototherapy¹

- Narrowband UVB
- Psoralen (oral or topical) with local ultraviolet A (PUVA)

Systemic Therapy¹

- Methotrexate
- Ciclosporin
- Acitretin
- Azathioprine
- Fumeric Acid Esters
- Hydroxyurea
- Leflunomide
- Mycophenolate mofetil
- Sulfasalazine
- Tacrolimus

Systemic Biological Therapy^{1,2}

For severe and very severe

- Etanercept¹
- Adalimumab¹
- Infliximab¹
- Ustekinumab²
- Secukinumab²
- Ixekizumab²

Please consult individual SPCs for licensed indications

Topical Treatments – Emollients^{1,2}

NICE Guideline assumes that emollients have been prescribed when appropriate, before the treatment pathway starts

Emollients reduce dryness, cracking, scaling of the skin, including itch

May be the only treatment necessary for mild psoriasis

Consider using humectants



PCDS Guidance Psoriasis Pathway

Type of Psoriasis	Treatment
Plaque psoriasis	Vitamin D/Potent steroid combination product first line, once daily until lesions flatten. Review at 8-12 weeks. If response sub-optimal then: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Review adherence2) Descale3) Consider using tar products
Scalp psoriasis	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Descale using tar/salicylic acid/coconut oil. Massage in and leave overnight2) Treat ongoing inflammation with potent topical steroids3) Maintenance therapy with tar shampoos, bi-weekly steroids and descaling products as required
Face, Flexures and genitalia	Moderate potent topical steroids Vitamin D ointment (calcitriol or tacalcitrol) Calcineurin inhibitors (tacrolimus)

Resources

www.pcids.org – psoriasis, acne and rosacea pathways

www.bad.org

Differential Diagnosis in Dermatology 4th ed. Ashton, Leppard and Cooper