



Comparison of representative topical corticosteroid preparations (classified according to the United States system)

Potency group *	Corticosteroid	Vehicle type/form	Brand names (United States)	Available strength(s), percent (except as noted)
Super-high potency (group 1)	Betamethasone dipropionate, augmented	Ointment (optimized)	Diprolene	0.05
		Gel, lotion	[Generic only]	0.05
	Clobetasol propionate	Cream, ointment	Temovate	0.05
			[Generic only]	0.05
		Gel, solution (scalp)	[Generic only]	0.05
			[Generic only]	0.05
		Cream	Tasoprol	0.05
		Cream (emollient base)	Temovate E [¶]	0.05
		Lotion, shampoo, spray aerosol	Clobex	0.05
		Foam aerosol	Olux, Olux-E, Tovet	0.05
		Lotion	Impeklo	0.05
		Ointment	Clobetavix	0.05
	Shampoo	Clodan	0.05	
	Solution (scalp)	Cormax [¶]	0.05	
	Diflucortolone valerate (not available in United States)	Ointment, oily cream	Nerisone Forte (United Kingdom, others)	0.3
	Fluocinonide	Cream	Vanos	0.1
	Flurandrenolide	Tape (roll)	Cordran	4 mcg/cm ²
Halobetasol propionate	Lotion	Ultravate	0.05	
	Cream, ointment	[Generic only]	0.05	
	Foam	Lexette	0.05	

High potency (group 2)	Amcinonide	Ointment	Cyclocort [¶] , Amcort [¶]	0.1
	Betamethasone dipropionate	Ointment	Diprosone [¶]	0.05
		Cream, augmented formulation (AF)	Diprolene AF	0.05
	Clobetasol propionate	Cream	Impoyz	0.025
	Desoximetasone	Cream, ointment, spray	Topicort	0.25
		Gel	Topicort	0.05
	Diflorasone diacetate	Ointment	ApexiCon [¶] , Florone [¶]	0.05
		Cream (emollient)	ApexiCon E	0.05
	Fluocinonide	Cream, gel, ointment, solution	Lidex [¶]	0.05
Halcinonide	Cream, ointment, solution	Halog	0.1	
Halobetasol propionate	Lotion	Bryhali	0.01	
High potency (group 3)	Amcinonide	Cream	Cyclocort [¶] , Amcort [¶]	0.1
		Lotion	Amcort [¶]	0.1
	Betamethasone dipropionate	Cream (hydrophilic emollient)	Diprosone [¶]	0.05
	Betamethasone valerate	Ointment	Valisone [¶]	0.1
		Foam	Luxiq	0.12
	Desoximetasone	Cream, ointment	Topicort, Topicort LP [¶]	0.05
	Diflorasone diacetate	Cream	Florone [¶] , Psorcon	0.05
	Diflucortolone valerate (not available in United States)	Cream, oily cream, ointment	Nerisone (United Kingdom, others)	0.1
	Fluocinonide	Cream (aqueous emollient)	Lidex-E [¶]	0.05
	Fluticasone propionate	Ointment	Cutivate [¶]	0.005

	Mometasone furoate	Ointment	Elocon [®]	0.1
	Triamcinolone acetonide	Cream, ointment	Aristocort HP [®] , Kenalog [®] , Triderm	0.5
Medium potency (group 4)	Betamethasone dipropionate	Spray	Sernivo	0.05
	Clocortolone pivalate	Cream	Cloderm	0.1
	Fluocinolone acetonide	Ointment	Synalar	0.025
	Flurandrenolide	Ointment	Cordran	0.05
	Fluticasone propionate	Cream	Cutivate [®]	0.05
	Hydrocortisone valerate	Ointment	Westcort [®]	0.2
	Mometasone furoate	Cream, lotion, solution	Elocon [®]	0.1
	Triamcinolone acetonide	Cream	Kenalog [®] , Triderm	0.1
		Ointment	Kenalog [®]	0.1
		Ointment	Trianex, Tritocin	0.05
Aerosol spray		Kenalog	0.2 mg per 2 second spray	
Dental paste	Kourzeq, Oralone	0.1		
Lower-mid potency (group 5)	Betamethasone dipropionate	Lotion	Diprosone [®]	0.05
	Betamethasone valerate	Cream	Beta-Val [®] , Valisone [®]	0.1
	Desonide	Ointment	DesOwen [®] , Tridesilon [®]	0.05
		Gel	Desonate, DesRx	0.05
	Fluocinolone acetonide	Cream	Synalar	0.025
	Flurandrenolide	Cream, lotion	Cordran, Nolix	0.05
	Fluticasone propionate	Lotion	Beser [®] , Cutivate [®]	0.05
	Hydrocortisone butyrate	Cream, lotion	Locoid, Locoid Lipocream	0.1
		Ointment, solution	[Generic only]	0.1

	Hydrocortisone probutate	Cream	Pandel	0.1
	Hydrocortisone valerate	Cream	Westcort [¶]	0.2
	Prednicarbate	Cream (emollient), ointment	Dermatop [¶]	0.1
	Triamcinolone acetonide	Lotion	Kenalog [¶]	0.1
		Ointment	Kenalog [¶]	0.025
Low potency (group 6)	Alclometasone dipropionate	Cream, ointment	Aclovate [¶]	0.05
	Betamethasone valerate	Lotion	Beta-Val [¶] , Valisone [¶]	0.1
	Desonide	Cream	DesOwen, Tridesilon	0.05
		Lotion	DesOwen [¶] , LoKara [¶]	0.05
		Foam	Verdeso	0.05
	Fluocinolone acetonide	Cream, solution	Synalar	0.01
		Shampoo	Capex	0.01
		Oil ^Δ	Derma-Smoothe/FS Body, Derma-Smoothe/FS Scalp	0.01
	Triamcinolone acetonide	Cream, lotion	Kenalog [¶] , Aristocort [¶]	0.025
	Least potent (group 7)	Hydrocortisone (base, ≥2%)	Cream	Ala-Cort, Hytone [¶] , Nutracort [¶]
Ointment			Hytone [¶]	2.5
Lotion			Hytone [¶] , Ala Scalp, Scalacort DK	2
Solution			Texacort	2.5
Hydrocortisone (base, <2%)		Ointment	Cortaid [¶] , Cortizone 10, Hytone [¶] , Nutracort [¶]	1
		Cream	Ala-Cort, Cortaid [¶] , Cortizone 10, Hytone [¶] , KeriCort, Synacort [¶]	1
		Gel	Cortizone 10	1

		Lotion	Aquanil HC, Cortizone 10, Sarnol-HC	1
		Spray	Cortaid [¶]	1
		Solution	Cortaid [¶] , Noble [¶] , Scalp Relief, Scalpicin	1
		Cream, ointment	Cortaid [¶]	0.5
		Cream	Instacort	0.5
	Hydrocortisone acetate	Cream	MiCort-HC [¶]	2.5
		Cream	Vanicream HC	1
		Lotion	Nucort	2

* Listed by potency according to the United States classification system: group 1 is the most potent, group 7 is the least potent. Other countries use a different classification system with only 4 or 5 groups.

¶ Inactive United States brand name for specific product; brand may be available outside United States. This product may be available generically in the United States.

Δ 48% refined peanut oil.

Data from:

1. UpToDate Lexidrug. More information available at <https://online.lexi.com/>.

2. Tadicherla S, Ross K, Shenefelt D, Fenske NA. Topical corticosteroids in dermatology. *J Drugs Dermatol* 2009; 8:1093.