



NB1: One or more over-the-counter topical products can be used for an additive effect; however, this may increase irritation.

NB2: Consider early referral if acne is scarring (even mild persistent acne can scar), presents in a patient with a family history of severe scarring acne, is resistant to other treatments, repeatedly relapses, or has a marked negative emotional and social effect.

NB3: Benzoyl peroxide and tretinoin can be irritating; topical clindamycin can be used alone if the patient's skin is prone to irritation (eg patients with atopic skin conditions).

NB4: Avoid using topical antibiotic therapy long term. Once papular inflammation has resolved or inflammatory acne activity is controlled, change to a single-ingredient preparation containing a topical retinoid or benzoyl peroxide for maintenance. If the inflammation recurs, resume the topical combination containing an antibiotic, and regularly review for ongoing need.