

Acne vulgaris: management.

Guideline ID: 2302

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National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) | Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) | British Association of Dermatologists (BAD)

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Acne vulgaris: management. London (UK): National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE); 2021 Jun 25 (last updated 2023 Dec 7). 58 p. (NICE guideline; no. 198)

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Overview

Guideline Objective

To provide recommendations on the management of acne vulgaris in primary and specialist care

Patient Population

People with acne vulgaris

Recommendations

Recommendation Statements

Major interventions covered in this guideline include:

- Information and support, skin care and diet advice, and referral to specialist care
- Factors to consider during consultation, and when choosing and reviewing a treatment, including oral isotretinoin and oral corticosteroids
- First-line treatment options based on severity (any severity, mild to moderate, moderate to severe), physical treatment, and use of intralesional corticosteroids
- Treatment options for people with polycystic ovary syndrome
- Guidance on relapse, maintenance, and management of acne-related scarring

Note: Refer to the [original guideline](#) for full recommendation statements.

Evidence Rating Scheme

Refer to the original guideline documentation for more information.

Recommendation Rating Scheme

Refer to the original guideline documentation for more information.

Related Content

Supporting Documents

- [Supplement 1: Methods](#); 2021 Jun 25.
- [Supplement 3: TSU NMA Software Code \(Mild to Moderate Acne\)](#); 2021 Jun 25.
- [Supplement 4: NMA Data \(Mild to Moderate Acne\)](#); 2021 Jun 25.
- [Supplement 5: NMA of Efficacy – Included and Excluded Studies \(Mild to Moderate Acne\)](#); 2021 Jun 25.
- [Supplement 6: NMA, Direct and Indirect Estimates \(Mild to Moderate Acne\)](#); 2021 Jun 25.

- Supplement 7: TSU NMA Software Code (Moderate to Severe Acne); 2021 Jun 25.
- Supplement 8: NMA Data (Moderate to Severe Acne); 2021 Jun 25.
- Supplement 9: NMA of Efficacy – Included and Excluded Studies (Moderate to Severe Acne); 2021 Jun 25.
- Supplement 10: NMA, Direct and Indirect Estimates (Moderate to Severe Acne); 2021 Jun 25.
- Evidence Reviews; 2021 Jun 25.
 - A: Information and Support; 2021 Jun 25.
 - B: Skin Care Advice for People with Acne Vulgaris; 2021 Jun 25.
 - C: Dietary Interventions for the Treatment of Acne Vulgaris; 2021 Jun 25.
 - D: Referral to Specialist Care; 2021 Jun 25.
 - E1: Management Options for Mild to Moderate Acne – Network Meta-analyses; 2021 Jun 25.
 - E2: Management Options for Mild to Moderate Acne – Pairwise Comparisons; 2021 Jun 25.
 - F1: Management Options for Moderate to Severe Acne – Network Meta-analyses; 2021 Jun 25.
 - F2: Management Options for Moderate to Severe Acne – Pairwise Comparisons; 2021 Jun 25.
 - G: Management Options for People with Acne Vulgaris and Polycystic Ovary Syndrome; 2021 Jun 25.
 - H: Management Options for Refractory Acne; 2021 Jun 25.
 - I: Maintenance Treatment for Acne Vulgaris; 2021 Jun 25.
 - J: Addition of Oral Corticosteroids to Oral Isotretinoin for the Treatment of Severe Inflammatory Acne Vulgaris; 2021 Jun 25.
 - K: Intralesional Corticosteroids for the Treatment of Individual Acne Vulgaris Lesions; 2021 Jun 25.
 - L: Risk Factors for Scarring Due to Acne Vulgaris; 2021 Jun 25.

- [M: Management of Acne Vulgaris-associated Scarring](#); 2021 Jun 25.
- [Developing NICE Guidelines: The Manual](#); 2014 Oct 31 (last updated 2025 Oct 23).

Implementation Tools

- [Baseline Assessment Tool](#); 2023 Dec 7.
- [Resource Impact Statement](#); 2021 Jun 25.
- [Research Recommendations](#).
- [Practical Steps to Improving the Quality of Care and Services Using NICE Guidance](#).

Patient Education

- [Information for the Public](#); 2021 Jun 25.

Note: This patient information is intended to help patients better understand their health and their diagnosed disorders. Patients and their representatives should still consult with a licensed health care professional for evaluation of treatment options as well as answers to their personal medical questions.

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TRUST Scorecard

Composition of Guideline Development Group (GDG)

Multidisciplinary GDG Members

Yes

Methodologist Involvement

Yes

Incorporation of Patient and Public Perspective



Systematic Review of Evidence

Literature Search



Study Selection



Evidence Synthesis



Foundations for Recommendations

Strength of Evidence Grade



Description of Benefits and Harms of Recommendations



Summary of Evidence Supporting Recommendations



Strength of Recommendations Rating



Clear Articulation of Recommendations



Funding Source

Yes

Disclosure and Management of Financial Conflicts of Interests



External Review



Updating

