

# National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

Early submission

## Acne vulgaris: management

### Review questions

*NICE guideline tbc*

*Review questions*

*October 2020*

*Early submission*

*Evidence review questions were developed by National Guideline Alliance which is part of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists*



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## Contents

<b>Review questions .....</b>	<b>5</b>
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# Review questions

Question number	Evidence review ID*	Review question
<b>Individual topics: Evidence reviews covering one review question</b>		
1.	A	What information and support is valued by people with acne vulgaris, and their parents or carers?
2.	B	What skin cleansing advice is effective in the treatment of acne vulgaris?
3.	C	What is the effectiveness of dietary interventions for acne vulgaris, for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• milk free diet</li> <li>• dairy product free diet</li> <li>• low glycaemic load diet?</li> </ul>
4.	D	When should people with acne vulgaris be referred to specialist care?
5.	J	Is the addition of oral corticosteroids to oral isotretinoin of benefit for the treatment of severe acne (including acne conglobata and acne fulminans)?
6.	K	What is the effectiveness of intralesional corticosteroids in the treatment of individual acne vulgaris lesions?
7.	L	What are the risk factors for scarring in people with acne vulgaris?
8.	M	What interventions are effective in the management of scarring resulting from acne vulgaris, for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• microneedling techniques</li> <li>• laser treatment</li> <li>• intradermal injection (for example, autologous platelet-rich plasma; autologous fibroblasts; polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) microspheres in collagen)</li> <li>• surgical treatment (for example, subcuticular incision)?</li> </ul>

## Combined topics: Evidence reviews covering more than one question

**Questions 9-17 below are covered by 5 overarching review questions:**

**For people with mild to moderate acne vulgaris what are the best topical or oral pharmacological and physical treatment options? (E1 refers to network meta-analysis and E2 refers to the pairwise meta-analysis of treatment options)**

**For people with moderate to severe acne vulgaris what are the best topical or oral pharmacological and physical treatment options? (F1 refers to network meta-analysis and F2 refers to the pairwise meta-analysis of treatment options)**

**What is an effective management option for people with acne vulgaris and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)? (G)**

**What is the effectiveness of topical or oral pharmacological and physical interventions in treatment resistant acne vulgaris? (H)**

**What is the effectiveness of topical or oral pharmacological and physical maintenance treatment for acne vulgaris? (I)**

9.	E1/E2 F1/F2 G, H, I	<p>What is the effectiveness of topical treatments individually or in combination in the treatment of acne vulgaris , for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• benzoyl peroxide</li> <li>• antibiotics</li> <li>• antiseptics</li> <li>• retinoids and retinoid-like agents (for example, tretinoin, adapalene)</li> <li>• azelaic acid</li> <li>• nicotinamide</li> <li>• combination of antibiotic and retinoid or retinoid-like agent</li> <li>• combination of benzoyl peroxide and retinoid or retinoid-like agent</li> <li>• combination of antibiotic and benzoyl peroxide?</li> </ul>
10.	E1/E2 F1/F2 G, H, I	<p>What is the effectiveness of oral antibiotic treatments individually or in combination in the treatment of acne vulgaris, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tetracyclines (for example oxytetracycline, doxycycline, minocycline, tetracycline, lymecycline)</li> <li>• macrolide antibiotics (for example, erythromycin and azithromycin)</li> <li>• trimethoprim?</li> </ul>
11.	E1/E2 F1/F2 G, H, I	<p>What is the effectiveness of an oral antibiotic with a topical agent compared to oral antibiotic alone in the treatment of acne vulgaris?</p>
12.	E1/E2 F1/F2 G, H, I	<p>What is the optimal duration of antibiotic treatments (topical and systemic) for acne vulgaris?</p>
13.	E1/E2 F1/F2 G, H, I	<p>What is the effectiveness of hormonal contraceptive treatments for people with acne vulgaris?</p>
14.	E1/E2 F1/F2 G, H, I	<p>What is the effectiveness of non- hormonal contraceptive anti-androgens (including spironolactone) in the treatment of acne vulgaris?</p>
15.	E1/E2 F1/F2 G, H, I	<p>What is the effectiveness of metformin in people with acne vulgaris?</p>
16.	E1/E2 F1/F2 G, H, I	<p>What is the effectiveness of oral isotretinoin for acne vulgaris?</p>
17.	E1/E2 F1/F2 G, H, I	<p>What is the effectiveness of physical treatments for acne vulgaris, for example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• comedone extraction</li> <li>• chemical peels (for example, glycolic acid, lactic acid, salicylic acid)</li> <li>• intralesional steroids</li> <li>• light devices (for example, intense pulsed light, photopneumatic therapy and photodynamic therapy)?</li> </ul>

*\*The evidence review ID refers to alphabetical letter that the evidence review will be associated with in the guideline.*