

The Medical Letter[®]

on Drugs and Therapeutics

COMPARISON CHART: Topical Nonsteroidal Drugs for Atopic Dermatitis

Updated February 17, 2026

The Medical Letter[®]

Because the source matters.

To support more content like this, please consider making a [donation](#) or becoming a [subscriber](#).

The Medical Letter is a nonprofit organization* that relies solely on subscription fees and donations to support our mission of providing objective, practical, and timely information on drugs and therapeutics.

Our work relies on support from people like you who value credible, unbiased drug information that is free of any commercial interest.

For more information visit our [website](#) or call Customer Service at: 800-211-2769

*The Medical Letter is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

TOPICAL NONSTEROIDAL DRUGS FOR ATOPIC DERMATITIS

Drug/Formulations	Indication	Usual Dosage	Cost ¹	Comments
Calcineurin Inhibitors				
Pimecrolimus – generic 1% cream (30, 60, 100 g tubes)	Second-line treatment of mild to moderate AD in non-immunocompromised patients ≥2 years old	≥2 years: bid	\$507.30	- Can be used on the face and intertriginous areas - AAAAI/ACAAI guidelines recommend use in patients ≥3 months old - Should not be used with occlusive dressings - Exposure to sunlight should be avoided - Not recommended for continuous long-term use
Tacrolimus – generic 0.03%, 0.1% ointment (30, 60, 100 g tubes)	Second-line treatment of moderate to severe AD in non-immunocompromised patients ≥2 years old	2-15 years: 0.03% bid ≥16 years: 0.03% or 0.1% bid	140.00	
Phosphodiesterase Type-4 (PDE4) Inhibitors				
Crisaborole – Eucrisa (Pfizer) 2% ointment (60, 100 g tubes)	Treatment of mild to moderate AD in patients ≥3 months old	≥3 months: bid	793.40	- Appear to be less effective than medium-potency topical corticosteroids, topical tacrolimus, and topical JAK inhibitors (Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2024; 8:CD015064) - Hypersensitivity reactions can occur
Roflumilast – Zoryve (Arcutis) 0.05, 0.15% cream (60 g tubes)	Treatment of mild to moderate AD in patients ≥2 years old	2-5 years: 0.05% once/day ≥6 years: 0.15% once/day	965.10	
Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor (AHR) Agonist				
Tapinarof – Vtama (Organon) 1% cream (60 g tubes)	Treatment of AD in patients ≥2 years old	≥2 years: once/day	1585.50	Folliculitis, primarily at application sites, can occur
Janus Kinase (JAK) Inhibitor				
Ruxolitinib – Opzelura (Incyte) 1.5% cream (60, 100 g tubes)	Treatment of mild to moderate AD in non-immunocompromised patients ≥2 years old	≥2 years: bid	2136.00	- Nonmelanoma skin cancers have occurred - Use restricted to ≤20% of body surface area - Label contains boxed warning about risks of cardiovascular events, thrombosis, lymphoma and other malignancies, serious infections, and death. - Not recommended for continuous long-term use

1. Approximate WAC for a 60-g tube. WAC = wholesaler acquisition cost or manufacturer's published price to wholesalers; WAC represents a published catalogue or list price and may not represent an actual transactional price. Source: AnalySource® Monthly. February 5, 2026. Reprinted with permission by First Databank, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2026. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-