East Lancashire Hospitals

Topical corticosteroid guide

Potency (strength)	Topical steroid
Mild Mild with anti-microbial/ antifungal	 Hydrocortisone cream, ointment 0.5%, 1%, 2.5% Fluocinolone 0.0025% cream (Synalar 1 in 10 Dilution®) Hydrocortisone 1% & miconazole 2% cream, ointment (Daktacort®) – (antifungal) Hydrocortisone 0.5% & nystatin 100,000 units/g cream (Timodine®) - (antifungal)
Moderate	 Clobetasone butyrate 0.05% cream, ointment (Eumovate®) Betamethasone valerate 0.025% cream, ointment (Betnovate RD®) Fluocinolone 0.00625% cream, ointment (Synalar 1 in 4 Dilution®)
Moderate with anti-microbial and antifungal	 Clobetasone butyrate 0.05%, oxytetracycline/[®] nystatin cream (Trimovate[®]) – (antifungal and antibiotic)
Potent Potent with anti-microbial/ antifungal	 Betamethasone valerate 0.1% cream, ointment, scalp application (Betnovate®) Fluocinolone 0.025% cream, ointment, gel (Synalar®) Mometasone furoate 0.1% cream, ointment, lotion (Elocon®) Betamethasone dipropionate 0.064% & clotrimazole 1%, cream (Lotriderm®)- (antifungal) Fluocinolone acetonide 0.025% & clioquinol 3% cream, ointment (Synalar C®) – (antiseptic)
Very potent	 Clobetasol propionate 0.05% cream, ointment, scalp application (Dermovate[®])
Very potent with antimicrobial and antifungal	 Clobetasol propionate 0.05%, neomycin/nystatin cream, ointment (Dermovate NN®) – (antibiotic & antifungal)
topical steroid use 1 FTU (0.5g) will cover an area of affected skin the size of two adult palms	 Apply to affected areas once or twice daily (before or after emollient) until redness and itching has completely settled, and then continue for a further two days then reduce frequency of application not potency. Restart as soon as redness and itching appears. Use mild topical steroids for face and neck. Only use moderate potency for 3-5 days during flares. Use moderate or potent steroids for 7-14 days maximum in skin creases. Do not use very potent steroid (e.g. Dermovate/ Dermovate NN) without specialist advice.