

5 Induction therapy

Summary of therapeutic recommendations ¹ for induction therapy

Recommendations are based on available evidence and expert consensus. Available evidence and expert voting lead to classification of strength of recommendation.

	Comedonal acne ³	Mild to moderate papulopustular acne	Severe papulopustular/ moderate nodular acne	Severe nodular/ conglobate acne ¹³
High strength of recommendation	-	Adapalene + BPO (f.c.) <i>or</i> BPO + Clindamycin (f.c.) ⁵	Isotretinoin	Isotretinoin
Medium strength of recommendation	Topical retinoid ⁴	Azelaic acid <i>or</i> BPO <i>or</i> Topical Retinoid ⁴ <i>or</i> Topical Clindamycin + Tretinoin (f.c.) ^{5,6} <i>or</i> Systemic Antibiotic ^{5,7,8} + Adapalene ⁹	Systemic Antibiotic ^{5,8} + Adapalene ⁹ <i>or</i> Systemic Antibiotic ^{5,8} + Azelaic acid ¹⁰ <i>or</i> Systemic Antibiotic ^{5,8} + Adapalene + BPO (f.c.)	Systemic Antibiotic ^{5,8} + Azelaic Acid <i>or</i> Systemic Antibiotic ^{5,8} + Adapalene + BPO (f.c.)
Low strength of recommendation	Azelaic acid <i>or</i> BPO	Blue Light <i>or</i> Oral Zinc <i>or</i> Systemic Antibiotic ^{5,7,8} + Azelaic Acid ¹⁰ <i>or</i> Systemic Antibiotic ^{5,7,8} + Adapalene + BPO (f.c.) ¹¹ <i>or</i> Systemic Antibiotic ^{5,7,8} + BPO ¹² <i>or</i> Topical Erythromycin + Isotretinoin (f.c.) ⁵ <i>or</i> Topical Erythromycin + Tretinoin (f.c.) ⁵	Systemic Antibiotic ^{5,8} + BPO ¹²	Systemic Antibiotic ^{5,8} + Adapalene ^{9,11} <i>or</i> Systemic Antibiotics ^{5,8} + BPO ¹¹
Alternatives for females ²	-	-	Hormonal Antiandrogens + Systemic Antibiotic ^{5,8} + Topicals (apart from antibiotics) <i>or</i> Hormonal Antiandrogens + Topical Treatment (apart from antibiotics)	Hormonal Antiandrogens + Systemic Antibiotic ^{5,8} + Topicals (apart from antibiotics) <i>or</i> Hormonal Antiandrogens + Topical Treatment (apart from antibiotics)

¹ Limitations can apply that may necessitate the use of a treatment with a lower strength of recommendation as a first line therapy (e. g. financial resources/ reimbursement limitations, legal restrictions, availability, drug licensing).

² low strength of recommendation