

Differin (adapalene) basics

Treats acne. Differin (adapalene) is commonly used for treating acne, but, it can cause skin irritation.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Differin (adapalene) Drug effectiveness			[Blue bar spanning Weeks and Months]		
Possible side effects					
Skin redness 38% chance	[Red bar spanning Hours, Days, and Weeks]				
Skin scaling 35% chance		[Red bar spanning Days and Weeks]			
Skin dryness 42% chance		[Red bar spanning Days and Weeks]			
Persistent itching 21% chance	[Red bar spanning Hours, Days, and Weeks]				
Persistent burning and stinging 24% chance	[Red bar spanning Hours, Days, and Weeks]				

Tips from pharmacists

- If you are using the cream or gel formulation, apply a thin film to clean, dry skin in the evening before bedtime. Apply enough to cover entire affected area. Don't apply more than directed, it won't clear your acne faster and will only cause more skin irritation.
- If you are using the lotion formulation, apply Differin (adapalene) after washing gently with a mild or soapless cleanser and then pat dry. Dispense a nickel size amount (3 to 4 pump actuations) to cover entire face.
- Differin (adapalene) should only be used topically. Be sure to avoid contact with broken or sunburned skin, as well as to your eyes, lips, and nose.
- If needed, moisturizers can be used. Avoid products containing alpha hydroxy or glycolic acid.
- While using Differin (adapalene) try to limit exposure to the sun. Use sunblock and wear protective clothing.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Local skin reactions

Differin (adapalene) can cause local skin reactions including redness, scaling, dryness, and stinging/burning. These symptoms will likely occur during the first 2 weeks of treatment, and usually lessen with continued use of Differin (adapalene). Talk to your doctor if these symptoms become intolerable. You will likely need to use a moisturizer, reduce the frequency of applying Differin (adapalene), or discontinue using it. It shouldn't be applied to cuts, abrasions, or sunburned skin. Avoid using Differin (adapalene) at the same time as other potentially irritating topical products, such as soaps and cleansers that have a strong skin-drying effect and products with high concentrations of alcohol, astringents,

UV and sunlight exposure

Avoid exposure to sunlight, including sunlamps, while using Differin (adapalene). Use high SPF sunscreen and protective clothing when going outside. You may be more sensitive and irritated by extreme weather, such as wind or cold, while using Differin (adapalene).

Severe allergic reaction

Differin (adapalene) can cause allergic reactions including severe itchiness, facial swelling, eyelid swelling and lip swelling. These reactions require immediate medical treatment. Stop using Differin (adapalene) and consult your doctor immediately. Moreover, any symptoms including hives, chest pain, swelling, and shortness of breath also require immediate medical attention.

