Acne
Also called: pimples

A skin condition that occurs when hair follicles plug with oil and dead skin cells.

**Very common**
More than 3 million US cases per year

- Treatable by a medical professional
- Requires a medical diagnosis
- Lab tests or imaging not required

Acne is most common in teenagers and young adults.
Symptoms range from uninflamed blackheads to pus-filled pimples or large, red, and tender bumps.
Treatments include over-the-counter creams and cleanser, as well as prescription antibiotics.

### Ages affected

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-13</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-18</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-40</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>41-60</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td>0%</td>
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</tbody>
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### Symptoms

**Requires a medical diagnosis**
Symptoms range from uninflamed blackheads to pus-filled pimples or large, red, and tender bumps.

**People may experience:**
Skin: pimples, redness, or tenderness
Also common: pimple or blackhead

### Treatments

**Treatment consists of skin care**
Treatments include over-the-counter creams and cleanser, as well as prescription antibiotics.

### Self-care

**Clindamycin / Tretinoin:** It can treat acne.
**Benzoyl peroxide / Salicylic acid:** A topical medication that reduces acne-causing bacteria and sheds the skin.

**Antibacterial soap:** Cleanses skin and reduces risk of infection.

**Medications**

**Anti-Inflammatory:** Prevents or counteracts swelling (inflammation) in joints and tissues.
- Salicylic acid (Fast Clearing Spot, Acne Cleanser, Clean and Clear Advantage, Acne Wash, and Clearasil Daily Clear)

**Vitamin A derivative:** Unplugs blocked hair follicles and helps prevent new blockages from forming. Slows skin cell growth.
- Tretinoin (Refissa, Atralin, Tretin-X, Retin-A, and Avita)
- Adapalene (Differin)
- Clindamycin / Tretinoin (Veltin and Ziana)

**Antibiotics:** Stops the growth of or kills bacteria.
- Minocycline (Solodyn, Arestin, and Minocin)
- Erythromycin (Ery-tab, Erygel, Pce, Eryc, and E.E.S. 200)
- Clindamycin (Evoclin, Clindagel, Clindacin Pac, Cleocin T, and Clindacin P)
- Doxycycline (Oracea, Monodox, Doryx, Morgidox, and Acticlate)
- Clindamycin / Tretinoin (Veltin and Ziana)
- Sulfacetamide / Sulfur
- Tetracycline
- Benzoyl peroxide / Clindamycin (Onexton, BenzaClin, Duac, Acanya, and Benzaclin Pump)
- Benzoyl peroxide / Erythromycin (Benzamycin and BenzamycinPak)

**Topical antiseptic:** Destroys or prevents the growth of microorganisms on the skin that may cause infection.
- Benzoyl peroxide (PanOxyl, BenzEFoam, Advanced Exfoliating Cleanser, Pacnex HP, and BPO Creamy Wash Pack)
- Azelaic acid (Finacea and Azelex)
- Benzoyl peroxide / Clindamycin (Onexton, BenzaClin, Duac, Acanya, and Benzaclin Pump)
- Benzoyl peroxide / Erythromycin (Benzamycin and BenzamycinPak)

**Specialists**

**Pediatrician:** Provides medical care for infants, children, and teenagers.

**Primary care provider (PCP):** Prevents, diagnoses, and treats diseases.

**Dermatologist:** Focuses on disorders of skin, nails, and hair.

Consult a doctor for medical advice

Note: The information you see describes what usually happens with a medical condition, but doesn't apply to everyone. This information isn't medical advice, so make sure to contact a healthcare provider if you have a medical problem. If you think you may have a medical emergency, call your doctor or a emergency number immediately.

**Sources:** Mayo Clinic and others. Learn more