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## Steroid rosacea

Steroid rosacea is the name given to a [rosacea](#)-like condition on the face caused by potent [topical steroids](#). It is a variant of [perioral dermatitis](#) (also known as periorificial dermatitis) and is considered distinct from [steroid acne](#).

After several weeks of applying a topical steroid to the eyelids, cheeks or chin the affected area becomes red (erythematous). Small bumps (papules) and pustules appear intermittently, and may paradoxically be especially severe when the topical steroid cream is discontinued.

### Steroid rosacea



### Other effects of topical steroids on facial skin

Many adverse effects have been described from the use of topical steroids.

If the steroid creams are used for months or years, broken capillaries (telangiectasia) may develop.

Occasionally steroid rosacea is confused with [tinea faciei](#) and [tinea incognito](#), fungal infection masked by topical steroids.

### Adverse effects of topical steroids on the face



Erythema due to steroids



Steroid telangiectasia



Tinea faciei treated with topical steroid

### Treatment

Steroid rosacea responds well to treatment in most cases although telangiectasia may persist long term.

- The topical steroids should be discontinued. To minimise severe flare-up, slow withdrawal is recommended by decreasing how often the product is applied and choosing a product that is less potent.
- If moisturisers are used, these should be non-oily.
- Oral [tetracycline](#) is often prescribed and may be required for several months
- The telangiectasia can be treated with a [vascular laser](#).

#### Related information

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##### On DermNet NZ:

- [Acne and other follicular disorders](#)

##### Other websites:

##### Books about skin diseases:

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If you have any concerns with your skin or its treatment, see a [dermatologist](#) for advice.

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