Compound	Topical literature finding	Takeaway	Source URL(s)
Mefenamic acid	Topical mefenamic acid has been studied in emulgel and pluronic-lecithin organogel systems. One emulgel paper reported analgesic and anti-inflammatory activity comparable to marketed diclofenac gel; other formulation papers mainly emphasize controlled release or skin permeation rather than robust clinical efficacy.	Promising topical-formulation literature, but the evidence appears mostly formulation/preclinical rather than strong contemporary human efficacy data.	https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1319016411000624 https://europepmc.org/article/MED/27494650
Etofenamate (flufenamic acid derivative)	A 2020 systematic review identified 12 studies involving 14,780 patients. Topical etofenamate (gel 5% or 10%, cream 10%, lotion 10%) improved pain and inflammation in blunt injuries and rheumatic disorders, and was generally well tolerated.	Best-supported topical fenamate in this set; most directly relevant if you want a mefenamic-like NSAID already used topically.	https://europepmc.org/article/MED/32562238 https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40122-020-00177-1
Flufenamic acid / butyl flufenamate	Older double-blind ointment data exist in soft-tissue/rheumatic conditions, and newer work includes topical butyl flufenamate ointment in a mouse cranial-defect healing model.	Clear topical-use literature exists, but recent evidence is dominated by older clinical reports or newer animal studies rather than large modern trials.	https://europepmc.org/article/MED/1085738 https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4409/11/22/3620
Niflumic acid	A placebo-controlled trial in acute tendinitis reported better clinical signs after 7 days with topical niflumic acid gel; additional comparator work evaluated niflumic acid 2.5% gel versus piroxicam 0.5% gel in sprains and tendinitis.	Direct human topical efficacy data exist, though most of the literature I found is older.	https://europepmc.org/abstract/MED/1365471 https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0011393X05801626
Meclofenamic acid	Topical 5% meclofenamic acid gel versus placebo was evaluated in minor traumatology; separate murine work found a topical meclofenamic acid preparation inhibited carrageenan-induced paw edema.	Evidence exists for topical activity, but it is relatively sparse and older than the etofenamate literature.	https://europepmc.org/article/MED/1810522 https://academic.oup.com/jpp/article/39/1/57/6177537
Tolfenamic acid	Gel-formulation work using poloxamer 407 showed markedly increased solubility and supported sustained-release gel feasibility for topical tolfenamic acid delivery.	Looks like formulation feasibility for topical delivery rather than established clinical topical use.	https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S092809870800290X