

# Editorial Note on Next-Generation Therapies and Advance Acne Treatment

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## Editorial

According to a recent presentation at the 2020 ODAC Pre-Conference Inflammatory Diseases Symposium, topics and oral antibiotics, as well as studies on the skin microbiome, are paving the way for the future of acne care.

Clascoterone is an antagonist of the androgen receptor that specifically competes by binding to the androgen receptors present in hair follicles and sebaceous glands against androgens such as dihydrotestosterone. This mechanism of action helps decrease sebum development and prevents inflammatory pathway activation and synthesis of proinflammatory cytokines. Results showed a reduction in inflammatory and noninflammatory lesions in 2 randomized, vehicle-controlled, double-blind trials investigating clascoterone cream in 1440 males and non-pregnant females (all white). Overall, according to Lester, this topical was well tolerated.

In October 2019, Minocycline was approved by the FDA for the treatment of non-nodular inflammatory moderate-to-severe acne in patients 9 years and older.<sup>1</sup> A 4% minocycline foam falls within the antibiotic class of tetracycline, Lester said. Findings of a randomized, double-blind, vehicle-controlled study examining 4 percent minocycline foam in 1488 patients showed an increase in inflammatory lesions and revealed that 30.8 percent of patients achieved treatment success.

The topical minocycline shows a quicker efficacy profile in contrast with trifarotene. "One of the reasons that this was an ideal drug to turn into a topical treatment is [that] because of the tetracyclines, minocycline has the least resistance and the most beneficial [adverse] effects profile when compared [with] doxycycline or tetracycline," And she said. "We know, however, that when taken systemically, there is a potential for severe [adverse] effects, particularly discoloration and acne scarring. With the rise in topical clindamycin and erythromycin resistance, our climate is really perfect for adding another topical antibiotic drug into our acne regimen.

In a clinical study, results showed that sarecycline performed well for facial, back, and chest acne, according to Lester. "We all are trying in dermatology to be better antibiotic stewards. If you're not already recommending [sarecycline] for your patients, this is an excellent option," she said. "It's a very narrow-spectrum tetracycline, and we're aiming for narrow-spectrum medicines in terms of being good stewards of antibiotics to protect against resistant bacteria."

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