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Study Results in Focus: Assessing the Clinical Efficacy of Epiduo® Forte Gel



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Drs. Baldwin, Stein Gold, and Kircik are paid consultants for Galderma Laboratories, L. P.

Combination adapalene and benzoyl peroxide, 0.3%/2.5% (Epiduo Forte Gel, Galderma) offers the efficacy of its individual ingredients in a convenient and easy to apply application. Acne is the most common skin disease, with a variety of potential effects on patients. In the very stringent phase 3 clinical trial, Epiduo Forte Gel was proven safe and well tolerated, resulting in greater efficacy over vehicle, even in severe acne manifestations.[1]

The design of the clinical trial—and the efficacy outcomes—bear special consideration. The population of patients recruited to this study is noteworthy. A total of 286 patients were randomized to two once-a-day treatment groups: Epiduo Forte Gel (group 1; n=217) or vehicle gel (group 2; n=69). The primary endpoints were (1) success rate at Week 12 (defined as percentage of subjects who were "clear" or "almost clear" on the Investigator's Global Assessment Scale [IGA]); (2) change in inflammatory lesion count at Week 12; and (3) change in non-inflammatory lesion count at Week 12.

It is important to note that at baseline, 50% of the population was grade 3 on the IGA scale and 50% was IGA grade 4. This was the first topical acne clinical trial to include such a significant proportion of severe acne subjects.

Thinking about IGA, specifically, the study set a high efficacy bar. With all enrolled subjects at IGA grade 3 or 4 to start, all subjects had to achieve at least a 2-grade improvement in IGA to be considered a treatment success.

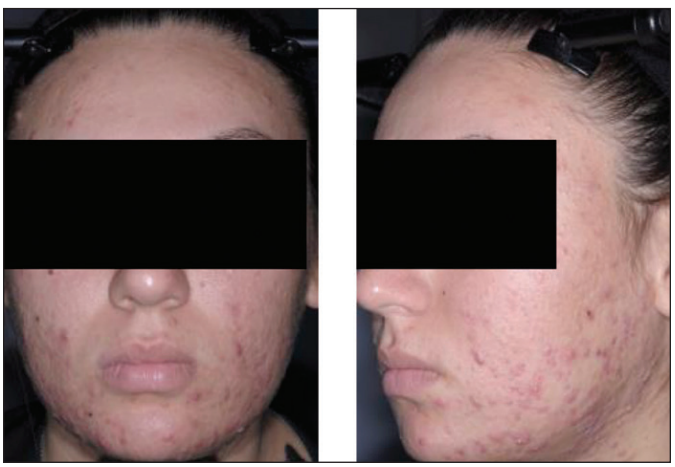
Overall, 33.7% of subjects in the Epiduo® Forte Gel arm vs 11% of subjects in the vehicle arm achieved a 2-grade improvement in IGA score and "clear" or "almost clear." In terms of inflammatory lesions, the mean absolute reduction in number of lesions was 27.8 (68.7%) for Epiduo® Forte Gel and 13.2 (39.2%) for vehicle; for noninflammatory lesions, these values were 40.5 (68.3%) for Epiduo® Forte Gel and 19.7 (37.4%) for vehicle.

Assessing actual patient experiences from the trial is illustrative.

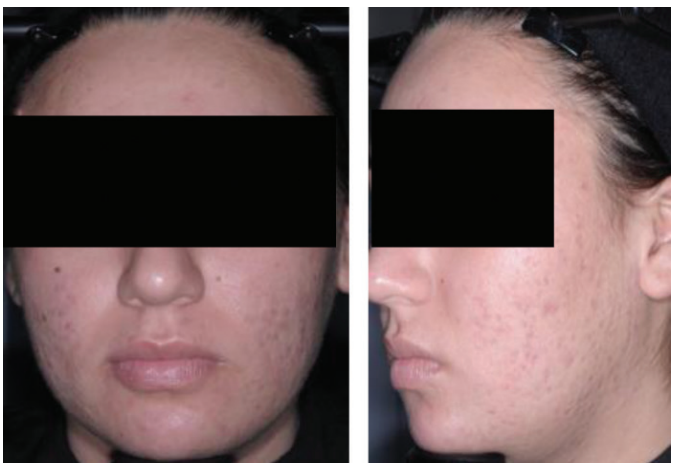
CASE 1

Subject 1 had 194 lesions at baseline (82 inflammatory and 112 non-inflammatory lesions). She was randomized to the active treatment arm with Epiduo Forte Gel. At Week 12, her total lesion count was 30 (13 inflammatory and 17 non-inflammatory lesions). This translates to an 85% total lesion reduction.

The subject's baseline IGA score was 4-Severe. At Week 12, it was 2- Mild, representing a 2-grade improvement. However, with an 85% reduction in total lesions and a 2-grade IGA improvement, the subject was considered a treatment failure. To be a success, she would have had to achieve an IGA of 0 or 1 (Clear or Almost Clear).



Case 1 (Subject 8423-017) Baseline.
194 Total lesions: 82 inflammatory; 112 non-inflammatory

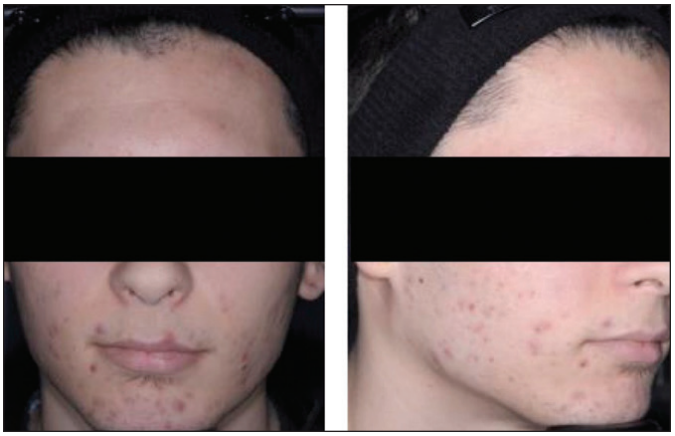


Case 1 (Subject 8423-017) Week 12.
30 total lesions: 13 inflammatory; 17 non-inflammatory

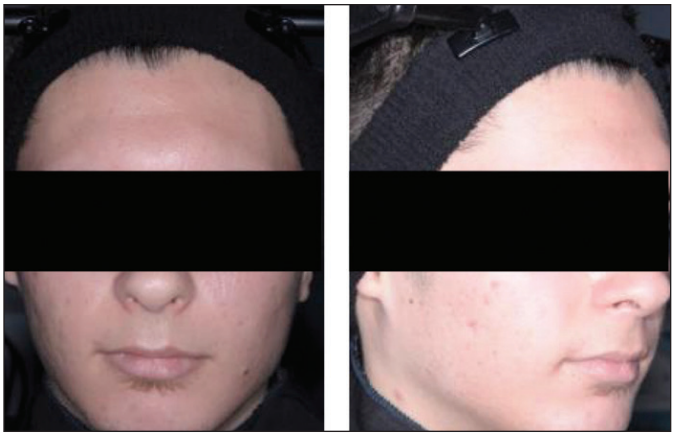
CASE 2

Subject 2 had a total lesion count of 103 (59 inflammatory and 44 non-inflammatory lesions). Baseline IGA score was 4-Severe. He was randomized to the active treatment arm with Epiduo Forte Gel. At Week 12, the total lesion count was 13 (2 inflammatory and 11 non-inflammatory lesions). The IGA was 1-Almost Clear.

The subject had an 87% reduction in total lesion count and a 3-grade improvement in IGA score. In this case, as the final IGA is Almost Clear, this subject qualifies as a treatment success.



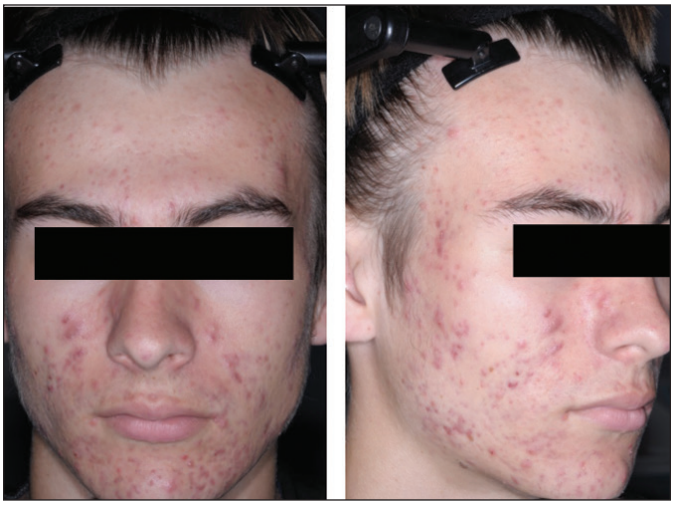
Case 2 (Subject 8423-024) Baseline.
103 Total lesions: 59 inflammatory; 44 non-inflammatory



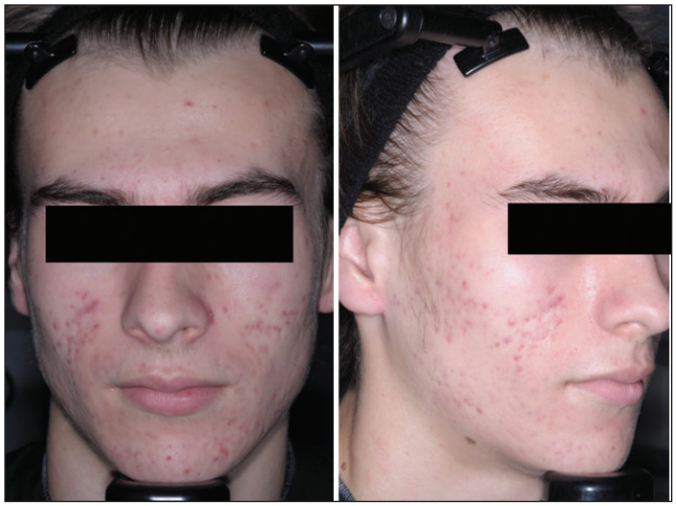
Case 2 (Subject 8423-024) Week 12.
13 Total lesions: 2 inflammatory; 11 non-inflammatory

CASE 3

Subject 3 had a total lesion count of 170 (90 inflammatory and 80 non-inflammatory lesions), plus 2 nodules. Baseline IGA score was 4-Severe. He was randomized to the active treatment arm with Epiduo Forte Gel. At Week 12, the total lesion count was 34 (12 inflammatory and 22 non-inflammatory lesions). The IGA was 2-Mild, which represented a 2-grade improvement over Baseline. However, since the subject did not achieve an IGA score of 0 or 1, he was deemed a treatment failure.



Case 3 (Subject 8423-017) Baseline.
170 Total lesions: 90 inflammatory; 80 non-inflammatory



Case 3 (Subject 8423-017) Week 12.
34 Total lesions: 12 inflammatory; 22 non-inflammatory

TRIAL EXPERIENCE IN CONTEXT

A review of three sample cases among those with severe acne provides context that may be important for understanding the clinical trial results for Epiduo Forte Gel.

Compare the experience of Subject 2 with Subject 3. A reduction in lesion count similar to those seen in Subject 3 would be clinically relevant, even if it did not meet the strict criteria of success in the trial.

Thus, there may be additional benefit to patients beyond that which is demonstrated by the already robust results of the clinical trial.

1. SteinGold et al Am J Clin Dermatol. 2016 Jun;17(3):293-303. 2. Weiss J et al. J Drugs Dermatol. 2015;14(12):1427-1435.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT

EPIDUO® FORTE

(adapalene and benzoyl peroxide) Gel, 0.3% / 2.5%

BRIEF SUMMARY

This summary contains important information about EPIDUO FORTE (Ep-E-Do-Oh For-Tay) Gel. It is not meant to take the place of your doctor's instructions. Read this information carefully before you start using EPIDUO FORTE Gel. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you do not understand any of this information or if you want to know more about EPIDUO FORTE Gel. For full Prescribing Information and Patient Information, please see the package insert.

WHAT IS EPIDUO FORTE GEL?
EPIDUO FORTE Gel is a prescription medicine used on the skin (topical) to treat acne vulgaris. Acne vulgaris is a condition in which the skin has blackheads, whiteheads, and pimples.

WHO IS EPIDUO FORTE GEL FOR?
EPIDUO FORTE Gel is for use in people 12 years of age and older. It is not known if EPIDUO FORTE Gel is safe and effective for children younger than 12 years old.

Do not use EPIDUO FORTE Gel for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give EPIDUO FORTE Gel to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

WHAT SHOULD I TELL MY DOCTOR BEFORE USING EPIDUO FORTE GEL?
Before you use EPIDUO FORTE Gel, tell your doctor if you:

- have other skin problems, including cuts or sunburn.
- have any other medical conditions.
- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if EPIDUO FORTE Gel can harm your unborn baby. Talk to your doctor if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if EPIDUO FORTE Gel passes into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. Talk to your doctor about the best way to feed your baby if you use EPIDUO FORTE Gel.

Tell your doctor about all of the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Using other topical acne products may increase the irritation of your skin when used with EPIDUO FORTE Gel.

WHAT SHOULD I AVOID WHILE USING EPIDUO FORTE GEL?

- You should avoid spending time in sunlight or artificial sunlight, such as tanning beds or sunlamps. EPIDUO FORTE Gel can make your skin sensitive to sun and the light from tanning beds and sunlamps. You should use sunscreen and wear a hat and clothes that cover the areas treated with EPIDUO FORTE Gel if you have to be in the sunlight.
- You should avoid weather extremes such as wind and cold as this may cause irritation to your skin.
- You should avoid applying EPIDUO FORTE Gel to cuts, abrasions and sunburned skin.
- You should avoid skin products that may dry or irritate your skin such as medicated or harsh soaps, astringents, cosmetics that have strong skin drying effects and products containing high levels of alcohol, spices or limes.
- You should avoid the use of "waxing" as a hair removal method on skin treated with EPIDUO FORTE Gel.
- EPIDUO FORTE Gel may bleach your clothes or hair. Allow EPIDUO FORTE Gel to dry completely before dressing to prevent bleaching of your clothes.

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON SIDE EFFECTS OF EPIDUO FORTE GEL?
EPIDUO FORTE Gel may cause serious side effects including:

- Local skin reactions. Local skin reactions are most likely to happen during the first 4 weeks of treatment and usually lessen with continued use of EPIDUO FORTE Gel. Signs and symptoms of local skin reaction include:
  - Redness
  - Dryness
  - Scaling
  - Stinging or burning

Tell your doctor right away if these side effects continue for longer than 4 weeks or get worse; you may have to stop using EPIDUO FORTE Gel.

These are not all of the possible side effects of EPIDUO FORTE Gel. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA at *www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088*. You may also contact GALDERMA LABORATORIES, L.P. at 1-866-735-4137.

HOW SHOULD I USE EPIDUO FORTE GEL?

- Use EPIDUO FORTE Gel exactly as your doctor tells you to use it. EPIDUO FORTE Gel is for use on the skin only (topical). Do not use EPIDUO FORTE Gel in or on your mouth, eyes or vagina.
- Apply EPIDUO FORTE Gel 1 time a day.
- Do not use more EPIDUO FORTE Gel than you need to cover the treatment area. Using too much EPIDUO FORTE Gel or using it more than 1 time a day may increase your chance of skin irritation.

APPLYING EPIDUO FORTE GEL:

- Wash the area where the Gel will be applied with a mild or soapless cleanser and pat dry.
- EPIDUO FORTE Gel comes in a pump. Depress the pump to dispense a small amount (about the size of a pea) of EPIDUO FORTE Gel and spread a thin layer over the affected area.
- Wash your hands after applying the Gel.

WHERE SHOULD I GO FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EPIDUO FORTE GEL?

- Talk to your doctor or pharmacist.
- Go to **www.EPIDUOFORTE.com** or call **1-866-735-4137.**

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EPIDUO® FORTE
(adapalene and benzoyl peroxide) Gel 0.3% / 2.5%