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## Aczone Fails to Impress for Rosacea

July 23rd, 2012, by David Pascoe | [aczone](#), [allergan](#), [clinical trials](#)



We don't often get to see the actual results from clinical trials. Companies are happy to receive publicity for their research and development programs, especially if a new product looks promising. If things don't go we during clinical trials, though, it seems that we just never hear about that product again.

Allergan, the makes of Aczone are unusual in this regard.

In 2006 we learnt that Aczone (Topical 5% Dapsone), an approved acne treatment would be [trilled as a treatment for rosacea](#).

The trial, [NCT00249782](#) a multiple arm Phase II trial, would compare Aczone once and twice a day, to the inactive gel vehicle, Metrogel 1% on its own and Aczone in the morning in combination with Metrogel in the evening.

All things going well this sort comparison would be able to position Aczone as a viable adjunct to, or indeed a more effect alternative to the market leading Metrogel.

### How Did It Go?

Allergan have a site dedicated to promoting their clinical trials – [www.allerganclinicaltrials.com](#) . The site also has a section where trial results are disclosed.

The trial of Aczone as a rosacea treatment can only be described as disappointing.

### What Did the Trial Discover?

Some highlights from [AZC ROS 01](#), “A Phase II, Randomized, Partial-Blind, Parallel-Group, Active- and Vehicle-Controlled, Multicenter Study of the Safety and Efficacy of Aczone™ (dapson) Gel, 5% in Subjects with Papulopustular Rosacea”.

- Aczone twice a day was better than Aczone once a day
- Aczone twice a day was not significantly better than the vehicle gel twice a day
- Combining Aczone and Metrogel 1% was not significantly better than Metrogel 1% on its own.
- None of any combination of the treatments was able to make a significant dent in erythema or telangiectasia.

### Takeaway Points

Notch this up as another data point. Rosacea treatments are **hard**. Even established acne treatments are no shoe-in to treat the papules and pustules of rosacea. Failures are going to be more common than successes.

Further, bettering the existing established treaments of topical metronidazole, topical azelaic acid, systemic antibiotics is an extra hill to climb for emerging treatments.

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For rosacea sufferers are considered, the most promising would be the Oxymetazoline based topical that they call AGN-199201. This was formerly known as V-101 when it was being development by Vicept Therapeutics.

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