Acne vulgaris is a chronic inflammatory disorder of pilosebaceous apparatus characterised by the formation of comedones, papules, pustules, nodules, cysts and often scars. It affects adolescents and young adults of both sexes.

The physiopathologic mechanism of the disorder seems to be dependent on four main factors:
(a) Sebum production and excretion;
(b) Type of keratinization of the follicular channel;
(c) Microbial colonization of the pilosebaceous unit and
(d) Inflammatory reaction of the perifollicular area.

Current management of acne comprises various topical and systemic drugs; including benzoyl peroxide, antibiotics and retinoids. However, despite the established therapeutic efficacy of these drugs, recurrences with acne are nevertheless frequently encountered due to the chronic nature of the disease, thus repeated, long term courses of treatment may be required, which emphasizes the need for therapy safety.

This study was carried out to assess the efficacy of the new topical anti-acne drug; azelaic acid.

Eighty two patients were included in the study and the drug proved to be quite effective and safe. It reduced both inflamed and non inflamed lesions and a significant reduction of inflamed lesions occured before that of non inflamed. Mild burning sensation and scaling occured only in 2x of patients which disappeared after some days from the start of its use.
This new topical drug, will add greatly to the weapons possessed by dermatologists to fight against acne vulgaris.