Clinical Trial Protocol
Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials

29 May 2026

Comparison of the Efficacy and Safety of Simvastatin 2% Topical Gel with Placebo in Treatment of Acne Vulgaris Patients

Protocol summary

Study aim

The aim of this study is to compare the efficacy and safety of simvastatin 2% topical gel with placebo for acne vulgaris.

Design

Clinical trial with control group, community based and pragmatic with a parallel group, double blinded, randomized

Settings and conduct

Patient recruitment takes place at dermatology clinic of Amir-Almomenin hospital in Tehran. During the study, all the patients are visited by dermatologist for the clinical qualification, only after obtaining a written consent from by the researcher. The demographic details and quality of life characteristics are recorded, too. The patients are taken photo of both of the sides. Each patient randomly applies a thin layer of simvastatin 2% gel on one side, and concurrently after washing hands thoroughly, applies the placebo gel on the other side of the face. In the blinding process, an independent pharmacist helps. Both gel samples are prepared in similar, separated labeled tubes. The two tubes are kept inside a sealed box, therefore, all the 30 patients are blinded by this process.

Participants/Inclusion and exclusion criteria

The inclusion criteria is patients with mild and moderate acne vulgaris in the global acne grading system. The exclusion criteria are pregnancy, lactation, dermatological malignancy, burning, infection, known hypersensitivity to simvastatin and receiving any topical or oral medication for acne vulgaris in the last one month.

Intervention groups

The patients with acne vulgaris undergo treatment with simvastatin gel 2% and placebo gel for eight weeks and two times a day. Each of the gels is allocated to each side of the face based on randomization method.

Main outcome variables

A significant reduction in the inflammation of acne lesions; A remarkable decrease in the acne scores assessed by Global Acne Grading System; Improvement in quality of life of patients with acne

General information

Reason for update

Acronym

ADR

IRCT registration information

IRCT registration number: **IRCT20100119003106N38**
Registration date: **2018-07-28, 1397/05/06**
Registration timing: **registered_while_recruiting**

Last update: **2018-07-28, 1397/05/06**
Update count: **0**

Registration date

2018-07-28, 1397/05/06

Registrant information

Name

Farshad Hashemian

Name of organization / entity

Pharmaceutical Sciences Branch, Islamic Azad University (IAU)

Country

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Phone

+98 21 2260 0037

Email address

hashemian.f@iaups.ac.ir

Recruitment status

Recruitment complete

Funding source

Expected recruitment start date

2018-07-15, 1397/04/24

Expected recruitment end date

2018-09-20, 1397/06/29

Actual recruitment start date
empty
Actual recruitment end date
empty
Trial completion date
empty

Scientific title
Comparison of the Efficacy and Safety of Simvastatin 2% Topical Gel with Placebo in Treatment of Acne Vulgaris Patients

Public title
Effect of Simvastatin gel in treatment of acne
Purpose
Treatment
Inclusion/Exclusion criteria
Inclusion criteria:
Patients with mild and moderate acne vulgaris
Exclusion criteria:
Pregnant women Breastfeeding women The patients with dermatological malignancy The patients with burning The patients with infection The patients which have known hypersensitivity to simvastatin The patients which have received any topical or oral medications for acne vulgaris in the last one month
Age
No age limit
Gender
Both

Phase
2-3
Groups that have been masked

- Participant
- Care provider
- Investigator
- Outcome assessor
- Data analyser

Sample size
Target sample size: **30**
More than 1 sample in each individual
Number of samples in each individual: **2**
Right side of the face and left side of the face serve as separate samples in this study. One of the sides receives simvastatin 2% gel and the other side receives placebo gel randomly.
Randomization (investigator's opinion)
Randomized
Randomization description
Randomized allocation is based on a single sequence in this study, therefore, the method used is simple randomization. The unit of randomization is individual. At first, the two tubes containing simvastatin and placebo are determined by labeling and are received by the third-party in dual packages. The third-party uses random coin tossing to determine the side of the face that each of the gels should be used. Then he allocates a code to each of the packages, notes them all down and keeps them until the end of the study. The mentioned package, on the side of which the part it should be used is written, is sealed and handed on the patients. Allocation of the mentioned package accomplishes by a random selection of one of the available codes written on the packages by the patient himself. The mentioned dual tubes are exactly the same in the case of weight and shape and so the desired allocation is concealed.
Blinding (investigator's opinion)
Double blinded
Blinding description
An independent pharmacist helps us in the blinding process. Both gel sample types are prepared in similar, separated labeled tubes. A random coin tossing is used by him for randomization of gel samples to two "right" and "left" groups. The two tubes are kept inside a sealed box, therefore, the researcher, the care provider, dermatologist, and the patients are blinded by this process. Data collectors and outcome assessors are blinded until the end of the research, too. Every box has a special code. Each patient is assigned one of those allocated codes by a random selection by himself.
Placebo
Used
Assignment
Parallel
Other design features

Secondary Ids

empty

Ethics committees

1

Ethics committee
Name of ethics committee
Ethics committee of Islamic Azad University, Pharmaceutical Sciences Branch
Street address
Islamic Azad University, Pharmaceutical Sciences Branch, Dr. Shariati Ave., Qolhak., Yakhchal St., Yasaman Ave., Tehran Town
City
Tehran
Province
Tehran
Postal code
1941933111
Approval date
2017-01-05, 1395/10/16
Ethics committee reference number
IR.IAU.PS.REC.1395.41

Health conditions studied

1

Description of health condition studied
Acne Vulgaris
ICD-10 code
L70.0
ICD-10 code description
Acne vulgaris

Primary outcomes

1

Description
Acne scores in the Global Acne Grading System
Timepoint
Before intervention and 2, 5 , 8 weeks after intervention
Method of measurement
The Global Acne Grading System Formula

Secondary outcomes

1

Description
Quality of life score
Timepoint
Before intervention and 2, 5, 8 weeks after intervention
Method of measurement
The Cardiff Acne Disability Index questionnaire

Intervention groups

1

Description
Intervention group: the use of gel simvastatin 2% on half of the face twice a day for 8 weeks
Category
Treatment - Drugs

2

Description
Control group: the use of gel placebo on half of the face twice a day for 8 weeks
Category
Treatment - Drugs

Recruitment centers

1

Recruitment center
Name of recruitment center
Amir-al Momenin hospital
Full name of responsible person
Dr Roghaye Jebraeili
Street address
Department of dermatology, Amir-al Momenin hospital, In front of Sardar-e Jangal Park, end of Shir Mohammadi St., Naziabad, Tehran-Iran
City
Tehran
Province
Tehran
Postal code
1811694784
Phone
+98 21 5534 6262
Fax
+98 21 5534 6301
Email
www.info@amhos.ir
Web page address

Sponsors / Funding sources

1

Sponsor
Name of organization / entity
Islamic Azad University, Pharmaceutical Sciences Branch
Full name of responsible person
Dr Mehdi Rajabi
Street address
No.99, Yakhchal street, Dr. Shariati Avenue Tehran
City
Tehran
Province
Tehran
Postal code
1941933111
Phone
+98 21 2264 0051
Fax
+98 21 2260 2059
Email
info@iaups.ac.ir
Web page address
Grant name
Islamic Azad Universiy
Grant code / Reference number
Pharmaceutical branch
Is the source of funding the same sponsor organization/entity?
Yes
Title of funding source
Islamic Azad University, Pharmaceutical Sciences Branch
Proportion provided by this source
100
Public or private sector
Public
Domestic or foreign origin
Domestic
Category of foreign source of funding
empty
Country of origin
Type of organization providing the funding
Academic

Person responsible for general inquiries

Contact
Name of organization / entity
Islamic Azad University
Full name of responsible person
Dr. Mehdi Rajabi
Position
Assistant professor/ clinical pharmacist
Latest degree

Ph.D.

Other areas of specialty/work

Medical Pharmacy

Street address

Islamic Azad University, Pharmaceutical Sciences Branch, Dr. Shariati Ave., Qolhak., Yakhchal St., Yasaman Ave., Tehran Town

City

Tehran

Province

Tehran

Postal code

1941933111

Phone

+98 21 2264 0051

Email

mehdirj@aol.com

Person responsible for scientific inquiries

Contact

Name of organization / entity

Islamic Azad University

Full name of responsible person

Dr. Roghaye Jebraeili

Position

Assistant professor/ dermatologist

Latest degree

Specialist

Other areas of specialty/work

Dermatology

Street address

Khaghani street, Dr. Shariati Avenue Tehran

City

Tehran

Province

Tehran

Postal code

1916893813

Phone

+98 21 2200 6660

Email

mehdirj@aol.com

Person responsible for updating data

Contact

Name of organization / entity

Islamic Azad University

Full name of responsible person

Dr. Mehdi Rajabi

Position

assistant professor/clinical pharmacist

Latest degree

Ph.D.

Other areas of specialty/work

Medical Pharmacy

Street address

Islamic Azad University, Pharmaceutical Sciences Branch, Dr. Shariati Ave., Qolhak., Yakhchal St., Yasaman Ave., Tehran Town

City

Tehran

Province

Tehran

Postal code

1941933111

Phone

+98 21 2264 0051

Email

mehdirj@aol.com

Sharing plan

Deidentified Individual Participant Data Set (IPD)

Yes - There is a plan to make this available

Study Protocol

Yes - There is a plan to make this available

Statistical Analysis Plan

Yes - There is a plan to make this available

Informed Consent Form

Yes - There is a plan to make this available

Clinical Study Report

Yes - There is a plan to make this available

Analytic Code

Yes - There is a plan to make this available

Data Dictionary

Yes - There is a plan to make this available

Title and more details about the data/document

All the data potentially can be shared after being unidentifiable.

When the data will become available and for how long

The start of the access period will be 6 months after the publication of the results.

To whom data/document is available

All the data will be available to all the people.

Under which criteria data/document could be used

All the data can be used by all the people with condition of mentioning the source.

From where data/document is obtainable

Applicants can refer to the clinical department of Islamic Azad University, Pharmaceutical Sciences branch, Dr. Rajabi or contact the researcher by sending email to faezeh.teimouri2920@gmail.com or calling 09371432153.

What processes are involved for a request to access data/document

Applicants can apply for research information by visiting the department or by contacting the e-mail address and telephone number as well as providing information on academic studies and the purpose of requesting the information. Applicants must commit themselves to mention the source. If the request is sent six months after the publication of the research information, the researcher will send the data to the requesting party by email within a week.

Comments