



MAY 2017

Take 5

[with Anja Krammer, BioPharmX](#)

BioPharmX Corporation's topical minocycline gel for acne, BPX-01, achieved its primary endpoint in a phase 2b clinical trials reported this month. Practical Dermatology® recently spoke with BioPharmX President Anja Krammer about the company and its future.

1. BIOPHARMX IS FOCUSED ON DRUG DELIVERY.

The company looks at core competencies from the perspective of improved drug delivery to meet unmet medical needs, Ms. Krammer says. “The first delivery system that we’ve come out with was fully invented in-house...When you think about developing a topical delivery system you really need to be able to enhance the delivery of the drug, but the area that no one has been able to address well is penetration.” Most companies focus on stabilization. “To do that most companies have worked with an oil-based environment. What it doesn’t allow though, is for those molecules to then be fully solubilized...Our hydrophilic solution is able to maintain the stability, which is a difficult challenge, and it allows the active to fully solubilize. Those are the two good benefits.”

2. THE API PROCESS OFFERS COST SAVINGS.

BioPharmX has spent less than \$40 million on its unique topical gel for acne. By focusing on delivery of an approved drug, the company has been able to reduce costs. This means a relatively low-cost innovation in the space of antibiotic therapy for acne—which hasn’t seen a major development since the launch of topical erythromycin, Ms. Krammer says. “We say what if? What if we could take the best molecules that are currently solving the problem and get them into the skin?”

3. MINOCYCLINE IS AN ATTRACTIVE TARGET FOR DEVELOPMENT.

Among APIs, minocycline’s “dual benefit” made it an obvious target, Ms. Krammer says. “When you think about the API minocycline, it not only has an antibacterial benefit but also has an anti-inflammatory benefit. When you think about acne patients, clearly those are both key factors.”

4. THIS APPROACH DIFFERS FROM GENERICS.

Generics drugs are big business. So why isn't BioPharmX working in that space? "If I could solve the problem in a cost-effective manner that is comparable to something like generics, but do it with a breakthrough new product that gives the highest efficacy, that would be the ultimate win," Ms. Krammer says. "For me, setting out to accomplish that first and foremost made a lot more sense. We weren't creating NCEs...We did have to invent a whole new system as opposed to just taking a drug, like a generic house would do, and fully repurposing it through a generic brand."

5. THERE'S MORE TO COME.

"We've got a good pipeline and that's off just the first delivery system," Ms. Krammer promises. BPX-01 is the first candidate off the topical delivery platform and could potentially be applied to any tetracycline class molecule. "Horizontally, we have initiated a tolerability and usability study for rosacea, that's an indication expansion. Then separately we are exploring right now other APIs off this delivery system. We haven't disclosed yet to what indications but we probably will in the next three to four months."