

## Incyte hopes its cream can rise to the top



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After last year's epacadostat blowup, Incyte's topical version of ruxolitinib, the active ingredient of its approved drug Jakafi, is now the group's brightest pipeline hope. However, this is not saying much, with *EvaluatePharma* sellside consensus predicting 2024 sales of just \$74m. At least topical ruxolitinib keeps delivering, with positive phase II data in the skin disorder vitiligo helping drive Incyte's stock up 5% this morning. The company plans to start phase III development later this year, with a 1.5% once and/or twice-daily dose looking the most likely to move forward based on the results reported on Saturday at the World Congress of Dermatology. Topical ruxolitinib is already in two phase III studies in atopic dermatitis, [True AD1](#) and [True AD2](#), testing 1.5% and 0.75% twice daily. Several other topical Jak inhibitors are in trials in various autoimmune diseases, including Aclaris's ATI-502, which is due to yield data from a [phase II vitiligo study](#) in mid-year – the company just reported [phase II data](#) with the project in alopecia. Topical ruxolitinib is not in development for alopecia, but CTP-543, Concert's deuterated version of ruxolitinib, is; however, Incyte is [doing its best](#) to get Concert's patent invalidated.

### 24-week data with topical ruxolitinib in phase II vitiligo trial, NCT03099304

Endpoint	1.5% once daily	1.5% twice daily	Vehicle
% of patients achieving F-VASI50*	50%	45%	3%
% of patients achieving F-VASI75	17%	30%	0%
% of patients with F-PhGVA clear/almost clear	13%	9%	0%

\*Primary endpoint; F-VASI50:  $\geq 50\%$  improvement in facial vitiligo area severity index; F-VASI75:  $\geq 75\%$  improvement in facial vitiligo area severity index; F-PhGVA: facial physician global vitiligo assessment. Source: company release.

### Selected topical Jak inhibitors in development

Project	Company	Indication(s)	Mechanism	Status
JTE-052/delgocitinib	Japan Tobacco, Torii Pharmaceutical	Atopic dermatitis	Jak inhibitor	Filed (Japan)
Topical ruxolitinib/ INCB018424	Incyte	Atopic dermatitis, vitiligo	Jak 1 & 2 inhibitor	Phase III
ATI-502	Aclaris Therapeutics	Atopic dermatitis, alopecia, vitiligo	Jak 1 & 3 inhibitor	Phase II
CTP-543	Concert Pharmaceuticals	Alopecia	Jak 1 & 2 inhibitor	Phase II
SNA-125	Sienna Biopharmaceuticals	Atopic dermatitis	Trk A & Jak 3 inhibitor	Phase II

Source: *EvaluatePharma*.

