

Aclaris's alopecia Jak might not be worth its Salt



[Madeleine Armstrong](#)

Another alopecia hopeful has tried to take on Pfizer and come off worse. Aclaris Therapeutics yesterday reported a mid-stage win with its oral Jak inhibitor ATI-501 – but the data did not convince the markets of the project's commercial prospects. With the usual caveats about cross-trial comparisons, ATI-501 looks to have underperformed Pfizer's PF-06651600 on the severity of alopecia tool (Salt) score; the big pharma has already started a [phase II/III trial](#) of its candidate. Aclaris execs said on a conference call yesterday that Pfizer still had to define the optimal regimen of PF-06651600, and that there was room for multiple players in alopecia, but investors sent Aclaris's stock down 17% in premarket trading today. The smaller group's topical Jak inhibitor, ATI-502, [flunked its phase II study in alopecia](#) last month; however, Aclaris execs said yesterday that the dose might have been too low and hinted that development might continue. Concert Pharmaceuticals discovered last year how tough it is to challenge Pfizer's Jak, falling [after reporting data with CTP-543](#). The CTP-543 study had a different primary endpoint, the proportion of patients with a 50% or greater reduction in Salt.

Cross-trial comparison of ATI-501 and PF-06651600

Project	Company	Study	Placebo-adjusted absolute change from baseline in Salt at week 24		
			400mg BID	600mg BID	800mg BID
ATI-501	Aclaris	AUAT-201 Oral, NCT03594227	11 points	15 points	18 points
			200mg once daily		
PF-06651600	Pfizer	NCT02974868	33.6 points		

BID: Twice daily; Source: Company releases & presentations.

Jak inhibitors in clinical development for alopecia

Project	Company	Pharma class	Trial ID	Data due
Phase II/III				
Olumiant	Lilly	Jak 1 & 2 inhibitor	NCT03570749	Dec 2020
PF-06651600	Pfizer	Jak 3 inhibitor	NCT03732807	Mar 2021
Phase II				
CTP-543	Concert	Jak 1 & 2 inhibitor	NCT03137381	Interim data reported, 12mg dose data due Q3 2019
ATI-502 (topical)	Aclaris/Rigel	Jak 1 & 3 inhibitor	NCT03354637	Reported, failed
ATI-501 (oral)	Aclaris/Rigel	Jak 1 & 3 inhibitor	NCT03594227	Reported
<i>Source: EvaluatePharma.</i>				

This story has been corrected to show comparative endpoint data for the Aclaris and Pfizer projects.

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[44-\(0\)20-7377-0800](#)

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