

1 **FINACEA™**

2 (azelaic acid) Gel, 15%

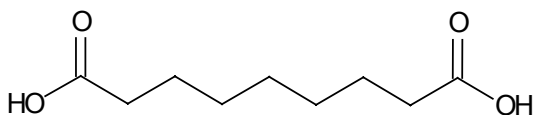
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4 **For Dermatologic Use Only – Not for Ophthalmic, Oral, or Intravaginal Use**5 **Rx only**

6

7 **DESCRIPTION**

8 FINACEA™ (azelaic acid) Gel, 15%, contains azelaic acid, a naturally occurring saturated dicarboxylic acid.

9 Chemically, azelaic acid is 1,7-heptanedicarboxylic acid, with the molecular formula  $C_9H_{16}O_4$ , a molecular weight  
10 of 188.22, and the structural formula:12 Azelaic acid is a white, odorless crystalline solid that is poorly soluble in water at 20 °C (0.24%), but freely soluble  
13 in boiling water and in ethanol.14 Each gram of FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, contains 0.15 gm azelaic acid (15% w/w) as the active ingredient in an  
15 aqueous gel base containing benzoic acid (as a preservative), disodium-EDTA, lecithin, medium-chain triglycerides,  
16 polyacrylic acid, polysorbate 80, propylene glycol, purified water, and sodium hydroxide to adjust pH.

17

18 **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**

19 The mechanism(s) by which azelaic acid interferes with the pathogenic events in rosacea are unknown.

20

21 *Pharmacokinetics:* The percutaneous absorption of azelaic acid after topical application of FINACEA™ Gel, 15%,  
22 could not be reliably determined. Mean plasma azelaic acid concentrations in rosacea patients treated with  
23 FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, twice daily for at least 8 weeks are in the range of 42 to 63.1 ng/mL. These values are within  
24 the maximum concentration range of 24.0 to 90.5 ng/mL observed in rosacea patients treated with vehicle only.

25 This indicates that FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, does not increase plasma azelaic acid concentration beyond the range  
26 derived from nutrition and endogenous metabolism.

27 In vitro and human data suggest negligible cutaneous metabolism of <sup>3</sup>H-azelaic acid 20% cream after topical  
28 application. Azelaic acid is mainly excreted unchanged in the urine, but undergoes some β-oxidation to shorter chain  
29 dicarboxylic acids.

30

### 31 **CLINICAL STUDIES**

32 FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, was evaluated for the treatment of mild to moderate papulopustular rosacea in 2 clinical  
33 trials comprising a total of 664 (333 active to 331 vehicle). Both trials were multicenter, randomized, double-blind,  
34 vehicle-controlled 12-week studies with identical protocols. Overall, 92.5% of patients were Caucasian and 73% of  
35 patients were women, and the mean age was 49 (range 21 to 86) years. Enrolled patients had mild to moderate  
36 rosacea with a mean lesion count of 18 (range 8 to 60) inflammatory papules and pustules. Subjects without papules  
37 and pustules, with nodules, rhinophyma, or ocular involvement, and a history of hypersensitivity to propylene glycol  
38 or to any other ingredients of the study drug were excluded. FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, or its vehicle were to be applied  
39 twice daily for 12 weeks; no other topical or systemic medication affecting the course of rosacea and/or evaluability  
40 was to be used during the studies. Patients were instructed to avoid spicy foods, thermally hot foods and drinks, and  
41 alcoholic beverages during the study, and to use only very mild soaps or soapless cleansing lotion for facial  
42 cleansing.

43

44 The primary efficacy endpoints were both 1) change from baseline in inflammatory lesion counts and 2) success  
45 defined as a score of clear or minimal with at least a 2 step reduction from baseline on the Investigator's Global  
46 Assessment (IGA):

47

48 CLEAR:

49 No papules and/or pustules; no or residual erythema; no or mild to moderate telangiectasia

50 MINIMAL:

51 Rare papules and/or pustules; residual to mild erythema; mild to moderate telangiectasia

52 MILD:

53 Few papules and/or pustules; mild erythema; mild to moderate telangiectasia

54 MILD TO MODERATE:

55 Distinct number of papules and/or pustules; mild to moderate erythema; mild to moderate telangiectasia

56 MODERATE:

57 Pronounced number of papules and/or pustules; moderate erythema; mild to moderate telangiectasia

58 MODERATE TO SEVERE:

59 Many papules and/or pustules, occasionally with large inflamed lesions; moderate erythema;

60 moderate degree of telangiectasia

61 SEVERE:

62 Numerous papules and/or pustules, occasionally with confluent areas of inflamed lesions;

63 moderate or severe erythema; moderate or severe telangiectasia

64

65 Primary efficacy assessment was based on the intent-to-treat (ITT) population with last observation carried forward

66 (LOCF).

67

68 Both studies demonstrated a statistically significant difference in favor of FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, over its vehicle in

69 reducing the number of inflammatory papules and pustules associated with rosacea and with success on the IGA in

70 the ITT-LOCF population at the end of treatment.

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**Table 2. Inflammatory Papules and Pustules (ITT population)**

	Study One	Study One	Study Two	Study Two
	FINACEA™ Gel, 15%	VEHICLE	FINACEA™ Gel, 15%	VEHICLE
	N = 164	N = 165	N = 167	N = 166
Mean lesion count				
Baseline	17.5	17.6	17.9	18.5
End of Treatment <sup>1</sup>	6.8	10.5	9.0	12.1
Mean Percent Reduction				
End of Treatment <sup>1</sup>	57.9%	39.9%	50.0%	38.2%

<sup>1</sup> ITT population with last observation carried forward (LOCF);

80

81 FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, was superior to the vehicle with regard to success based on the investigator's global  
82 assessment of rosacea on a 7-point static score at the end of treatment, (ITT population; Table 3).

**Table 3. Investigator's Global Assessment at the End of Treatment<sup>1</sup>**

	Study One	Study One	Study Two	Study Two
	FINACEA™ Gel, 15%	VEHICLE	FINACEA™ Gel, 15%	VEHICLE
	N = 164	N = 165	N = 169	N = 166
CLEAR, MINIMAL or MILD at	61%	40%	62%	48%
End of Treatment (% of Patients)				

<sup>1</sup> ITT population with last observation carried forward (LOCF);

83

84 **INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

85 FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, is indicated for topical treatment of inflammatory papules and pustules of mild to moderate  
86 rosacea. Patients should be instructed to avoid spicy foods, thermally hot foods and drinks, alcoholic beverages and  
87 to use only very mild soaps or soapless cleansing lotion for facial cleansing.

88

89 **CONTRAINDICATIONS**

90 FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, is contraindicated in individuals with a history of hypersensitivity to propylene glycol or any  
91 other component of the formulation.

92

93 **WARNINGS**

94 FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, is for dermatologic use only, and not for ophthalmic, oral or intravaginal use.

95

96 There have been isolated reports of hypopigmentation after use of azelaic acid. Since azelaic acid has not been well  
97 studied in patients with dark complexion, these patients should be monitored for early signs of hypopigmentation.

98

99 **PRECAUTIONS**

100 *General:* Contact with the eyes should be avoided. If sensitivity or severe irritation develops with the use of  
101 FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, treatment should be discontinued and appropriate therapy instituted. The safety and efficacy  
102 of FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, has not been studied beyond 12 weeks.

103

104 *Information for Patients:* Patients using FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, should receive the following information and  
105 instructions:

- 106 • FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, is to be used only as directed by the physician.
- 107 • FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, is for external use only. It is not to be used orally, intravaginally, or for the eyes.

108 Cleanse affected area(s) with a very mild soap or a soapless cleansing lotion and pat dry with a soft towel before  
109 applying FINACEA™ Gel, 15%. Avoid alcoholic cleansers, tinctures and astringents, abrasives and peeling  
110 agents.

- 111 • Avoid contact of FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, with the mouth, eyes and other mucous membranes. If it does come in  
112 contact with the eyes, wash the eyes with large amounts of water and consult a physician if eye irritation  
113 persists.
- 114 • The hands should be washed following application of FINACEA™ Gel, 15%.
- 115 • Cosmetics may be applied after FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, has dried.
- 116 • Skin irritation (e.g., pruritus, burning, or stinging) may occur during use of FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, usually  
117 during the first few weeks of treatment. If irritation is excessive or persists, use of FINACEA™ Gel, 15%,  
118 should be discontinued, and patients should consult their physician (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS**).
- 119 • Avoid any foods and beverages that might provoke erythema, flushing, and blushing (including spicy food,  
120 alcoholic beverages, and thermally hot drinks, including hot coffee and tea).
- 121 • Patients should report abnormal changes in skin color to their physician.
- 122 • Avoid the use of occlusive dressings or wrappings.

123 **Drug Interactions:** There have been no formal studies of the interaction of FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, with other drugs.  
124

125 **Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility:** Long-term animal studies have not been performed to  
126 evaluate the carcinogenic potential of FINACEA™ Gel, 15%. Azelaic acid was not mutagenic or clastogenic in a  
127 battery of in vitro (Ames assay, HGPRT in V79 cells {Chinese hamster lung cells}, and chromosomal aberration  
128 assay in human lymphocytes) and in vivo (dominant lethal assay in mice and mouse micronucleus assay)  
129 genotoxicity tests.  
130

131 Oral administration of azelaic acid at dose levels up to 2500 mg/kg/day (162 times the maximum recommended  
132 human dose based on body surface area) did not affect fertility or reproductive performance in male or female rats.  
133

134 **Pregnancy: Teratogenic Effects: Pregnancy Category B**

135 There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of topically administered azelaic acid in pregnant women. The  
136 experience with FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, when used by pregnant women is too limited to permit assessment of the  
137 safety of its use during pregnancy.

138 Dermal embryofetal developmental toxicology studies have not been performed with azelaic acid, 15%, gel. Oral  
139 embryofetal developmental studies were conducted with azelaic acid in rats, rabbits, and cynomolgus monkeys.  
140 Azelaic acid was administered during the period of organogenesis in all three animal species. Embryotoxicity was  
141 observed in rats, rabbits, and monkeys at oral doses of azelaic acid that generated some maternal toxicity.  
142 Embryotoxicity was observed in rats given 2500 mg/kg/day (162 times the maximum recommended human dose  
143 based on body surface area), rabbits given 150 or 500 mg/kg/day (19 or 65 times the maximum recommended  
144 human dose based on body surface area) and cynomolgus monkeys given 500 mg/kg/day (65 times the maximum  
145 recommended human dose based on body surface area) azelaic acid. No teratogenic effects were observed in the oral  
146 embryofetal developmental studies conducted in rats, rabbits and cynomolgus monkeys.

147

148 An oral peri- and post-natal developmental study was conducted in rats. Azelaic acid was administered from  
149 gestational day 15 through day 21 postpartum up to a dose level of 2500 mg/kg/day. Embryotoxicity was observed  
150 in rats at an oral dose that generated some maternal toxicity (2500 mg/kg/day; 162 times the maximum  
151 recommended human dose based on body surface area). In addition, slight disturbances in the post-natal  
152 development of fetuses was noted in rats at oral doses that generated some maternal toxicity (500 and 2500  
153 mg/kg/day; 32 and 162 times the maximum recommended human dose based on body surface area). No effects on  
154 sexual maturation of the fetuses were noted in this study.

155

156 Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used only if  
157 clearly needed during pregnancy.

158

159 **Nursing Mothers:** Equilibrium dialysis was used to assess human milk partitioning in vitro. At an azelaic acid  
160 concentration of 25 µg/mL, the milk/plasma distribution coefficient was 0.7 and the milk/buffer distribution was 1.0,  
161 indicating that passage of drug into maternal milk may occur. Since less than 4% of a topically applied dose of  
162 AZELEX® Cream, 20%, is systemically absorbed, the uptake of azelaic acid into maternal milk is not expected to

163 cause a significant change from baseline azelaic acid levels in the milk. However, caution should be exercised when  
164 FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, is administered to a nursing mother.

165

166 **Pediatric Use:** Safety and effectiveness of FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, in pediatric patients have not been established.

167

168 **Geriatric:** Clinical studies of FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and  
169 over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects.

170 **ADVERSE REACTIONS**

171 In the 2 vehicle controlled, identically designed U.S. clinical studies, treatment safety was monitored in 664 patients  
172 who used FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, (N=333), or the gel vehicle (N=331), twice daily for 12 weeks.

173

174 **Table 4. Cutaneous Adverse Events Occurring in ≥ 1% of Subjects in the Rosacea Trials by Treatment Group and**  
175 **Maximum Intensity\***

	FINACEA™ Gel, 15%			Vehicle		
	N=333 (100%)			N=331 (100%)		
	Mild n=86 (26%)	Moderate n=44 (13%)	Severe n=20 (6%)	Mild N=49 (15%)	Moderate n=27 (8%)	Severe n=5 (2%)
Burning/stinging/tingling	66 (20%)	30 (9%)	12 (4%)	8 (2%)	6 (2%)	2 (1%)
Pruritus	24 (7%)	14 (4%)	3 (1%)	9 (3%)	6 (2%)	0 (0%)
Scaling/dry skin/xerosis	1 (0%)	21 (6%)	8 (2%)	33 (10%)	12 (4%)	1 (0%)
Erythema/irritation	0 (0%)	6 (2%)	6 (2%)	8 (2%)	4 (1%)	2 (1%)
Edema	3 (1%)	2 (1%)	0 (0%)	3 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Contact dermatitis	2 (1%)	2 (1%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Acne	2 (1%)	1 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Seborrhea	2 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Photosensitivity	1 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (1%)	1 (0%)	1 (0%)
Skin disease	1 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)	2 (1%)	0 (0%)

176 \*Subjects may have > 1 cutaneous adverse event; thus, the sum of the frequencies of preferred terms may exceed the number of subjects with at least 1 cutaneous  
177 adverse event



178

179 FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, and its vehicle caused irritant reactions at the application site in human dermal safety  
180 studies. FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, caused significantly more irritation than its vehicle in a cumulative irritation study.  
181 Some improvement in irritation was demonstrated over the course of the clinical studies, but this improvement  
182 might be attributed to subject dropouts. No phototoxicity or photoallergenicity were reported in human dermal  
183 safety studies.

184

185 In patients using azelaic acid formulations, the following additional adverse experiences have been reported rarely:  
186 worsening of asthma, vitiligo depigmentation, small depigmented spots, hypertrichosis, reddening (signs of keratosis  
187 pilaris), and exacerbation of recurrent herpes labialis.

188

#### 189 **OVERDOSAGE**

190 FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, is intended for cutaneous use only. If pronounced local irritation occurs, patients should be  
191 directed to discontinue use and appropriate therapy should be instituted (See **PRECAUTIONS**).

192

#### 193 **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

194 A thin layer of FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, should be gently massaged into the affected areas on the face twice daily, in  
195 the morning and evening. FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, has only been studied up to 12 weeks in patients with mild to  
196 moderate rosacea (See **CLINICAL STUDIES**).

197

#### 198 **HOW SUPPLIED**

199 FINACEA™ Gel, 15%, is supplied in tubes in the following sizes:

200 30 g – NDC 50419-825-01

201 50 g – NDC 50419-825-02

202

#### 203 **Storage**

- 204 Store at 25°C (77°F); excursions permitted between 15°-30° C (59°-86°F) [See USP Controlled Room Temperature].
- 205 Distributed under license; *U.S. Patent No 4,713,394*
- 206 ©2002, Berlex Laboratories. All rights reserved.
- 207 Component code number
- 208 December 23, 2002
- 209 Manufactured by Schering S.p.A., Segrate, Milan, Italy
- 210 Distributed by:
- 211 Berlex Laboratories, Wayne, NJ 07470



**BERLEX**

**Approved Masterstat**

Component # 7023300/2189819

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300 Fairfield Road, Wayne, NJ 07470

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Logotype and text print  
Pantone 2726 C Blue

Crescent shapes above and below the logo print Pantone 3272 C Green

Berlex logo prints Pantone Cool Gray C

Bar codes print black

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Film f r/film for	<b>Stanzform/diecutline</b>	Balkenfarben Version/ strip colors version:
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# FINACEA SAMPLE 3 GRAM TUBE

Sample – Not For Sale  
Rx only

**Finacea™**  
(azelaic acid) Gel 15%

BERLEX®

3 grams

For Dermatologic Use Only / Not For Ophthalmic Use

**Contents:** Each gram of Finacea™ contains 0.15 gm azelaic acid (15% azelaic acid) in an aqueous gel base containing benzoyl peroxide, salicylic acid, polyacrylate, polyethylene glycol, polyacrylate, polyethylene glycol, purified water, and sodium hydroxide.

**Directions:** A thin layer of Finacea™ Gel, 15%, should be gently massaged into the affected areas of the face, neck, and chest morning and evening. Finacea™ Gel, 15%, has only been studied up to 12 weeks in patients with mild to moderate acne.

**Storage:** 25°C (77°F); excursions permitted to 15°-30°C (59°-86°F). (See USP Controlled Room Temperature Storage Definitions.)

**Excursions:** 15°-30°C (59°-86°F)

**Patent No.:** 4,713,384

**Manufacturer:** Berlex Laboratories, Inc., Kenilworth, NJ 07033

**Mfd by:** Berlex Laboratories, Kenilworth, NJ 07033

**Mfd by:** Schering S.p.A., Segrate, Milan, Italy

BERLEX® 2189801 1400600 US



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NDC 50419-825-01

Rx only

**Finacea**  
(azelaic acid) Gel 15%™

BERLEX®

For Dermatologic Use Only / Not For Ophthalmic Use

30 grams

**Contents:** Each gram of Finacea™ contains 0.15 gm azelaic acid (15% w/w) as the active ingredient in an aqueous gel base containing benzoic acid (as a preservative), disodium-EDTA, lecithin, medium-chain triglycerides, polyacrylic acid, polysorbate 80, propylene glycol, purified water, and sodium hydroxide to adjust pH.

**Dosage:** A thin layer of Finacea™ Gel, 15%, should be gently massaged into the affected areas on the face twice daily, in the morning and evening. Finacea™ Gel, 15%, has only been studied up to 12 weeks in patients with mild to moderate rosacea.

Store at 25°C (77°F); excursions permitted to 15°-30°C (59°-86°F). (See USP Controlled Room Temperature). Distributed under license; U.S. Patent No. 4,713,394

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Montville, NJ 07045  
Mfd by Schering S.p.A.,  
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Bar codes print black



**FINACEA TRADE 50 GRAM TUBE**

NDC 50419-825-02

Rx only

**Finacea**<sup>TM</sup>  
(azelaic acid) Gel 15%

**BERLEX**<sup>®</sup>

For Dermatologic Use Only / Not For Ophthalmic Use

**50 grams**

**Contents:** Each gram of Finacea<sup>TM</sup> contains 0.15 gm azelaic acid (15% w/w) as the active ingredient in an aqueous gel base containing benzoic acid (as a preservative), disodium-EDTA, lecithin, medium-chain triglycerides, polyacrylic acid, polysorbate 80, propylene glycol, purified water, and sodium hydroxide to adjust pH.

**Dosage:** A thin layer of Finacea<sup>TM</sup> Gel, 15%, should be gently massaged into the affected areas on the face twice daily, in the morning and evening. Finacea<sup>TM</sup> Gel, 15%, has only been studied up to 12 weeks in patients with mild to moderate rosacea.

Store at 25°C (77°F); excursions permitted to 15°-30°C (59°-86°F). (See USP Controlled Room Temperature). Distributed under license; U.S. Patent No. 4,713,394

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Bezeichnung/name:	<b>Finacea 50 g</b>	Aufmachung/country:	<b>Berlex USA</b>	
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Fax# (973) 305-5498

Print:

Logotype and text print Pantone 2726 C  
Blue

Crescent shapes above and below the  
logo print Pantone 3272 C Green

Berlex logo prints Pantone Cool Gray C

Bar codes print black