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> T. Simonart, M. Dramaix, V. De Maertelaer (2008) [Efficacy of tetracyclines in the treatment of acne vulgaris: a review](#) *British Journal of Dermatology* 158 (2), 208–216.  
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Acne and treating acne are still one of the large wildernesses in dermatology. Antibiotherapy with tetracyclines, even though it has been used for half a century, is one example. All the articles which have been published on this subject since 1962 have been systematically reviewed. The only randomized trials are those which compared two cyclines with one another: none of them found a significant difference. Second generation cyclines are more convenient to use but no more effective than tetracycline chlorhydrate. Minocycline is no clearly better than doxycyclines. The posology of antibiotics has shown no reproducible correlation with efficacy. No loss of efficacy over the course of time has ever been observed, which suggests that acquired bacterial resistances are not a determining factor. A dose that is too low to obtain circulating levels that are bacteriostatic on *Propionibacterium acne* and to change the cutaneous flora may still be effective on acne. Therefore the antibiotic effect is probably not the main mechanism of action of cyclines in acne. Their anti-inflammatory effect could be down to the inhibition of the chemotactism of neutrophil polynuclears, the liberation of cytokines or the activity of metalloproteinases of the interstitial tissue.