Bolde (Peumus boldus Mol.) is a slow-growing, shrubby evergreen tree native to the central and eastern parts of South America. It is found in densely forested areas, and it is cultivated in Chile, Peru, and Brazil, where it is grown for its medicinal properties.

The primary active constituent identified in the tree is boldine, a biologically active aporphine alkaloid. Several aporphine alkaloids, which are secondary metabolites, are found in bolde leaves, with boldine being the most abundant (Curr. Med. Chem. Anticancer Agents 2003;5:173-82). Boldine is extracted from the leaves and bark of the tree (Phytother. Res. 2000;14:339-43; Pharmacit 2001;56:242-5).

In Germany and other European countries, the bolde plant is used as a medicinal plant since the time of ancient herbalists. The bolde plant is a traditional medicine, particularly in Chile, Peru, and Brazil, to treat a wide range of conditions, such as respiratory illnesses, and is believed to have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties.

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

For topical use only

(see package insert for full prescribing information)

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

Selected adverse reactions that occurred in studies of the treatment groups.

**DRUG INTERACTIONS**

No significant drug interactions are known specifically with Atralin Gel.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**

Atralin Gel is contraindicated in patients with known allergy or sensitivity to any of the ingredients of the product. The use of Atralin Gel is contraindicated in patients with a known or suspected diagnosis of cancer.

**PREGNANCY CATEGORY**

Pregnancy Category C.

**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

The skin of certain individuals may become dry, scaly, or red with Atralin Gel use. This reaction is common to the use of any retinoid and may be minimized by the use of moisturizers and other topical agents. The use of sunscreen with a sun protection factor of at least SPF 15 and protective clothing over the day may be helpful.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Atralin Gel is a nonprescription topical retinoid available in the United States.

**REFERENCES**

1. Sknews @ Elsevier. For future columns, write to Dr. Baumann at sknews@elsevier.com.

2. Sknews @ Elsevier. For future columns, write to Dr. Baumann at sknews@elsevier.com.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The authors would like to thank the following institutions for their support: Food & Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health, and the American Academy of Dermatology.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The authors report no conflicts of interest relevant to this article.