Botanix says it expects to begin its first human safety and irritation studies of its synthetic cannabidiol drug BTX-1503 for acne this month.

Botanix said the trials would be split so that the trials of the Permetrex drug delivery compound, which made up the majority of the formulation, would be separated from the safety studies for the formulation which include synthetic cannabidiol.

Botanix executive director Matt Callahan said that “given that synthetic cannabidiol has already been dosed to patients at 20-30 times higher dosages in other studies than what we will be using in our clinical studies, establishing the safety and irritation profile of the Permetrex formulation before we combine it with synthetic cannabidiol in the next study, will help de-risk the whole clinical program”.

Botanix said it completed manufacturing of the Permetrex formulation at US Food and Drug Administration quality standard for its study late last week and it had ethics approval for the study, with data potentially available before the end of December, 2016.

Botanix was up 0.7 cents or 17.95 percent to 4.6 cents.