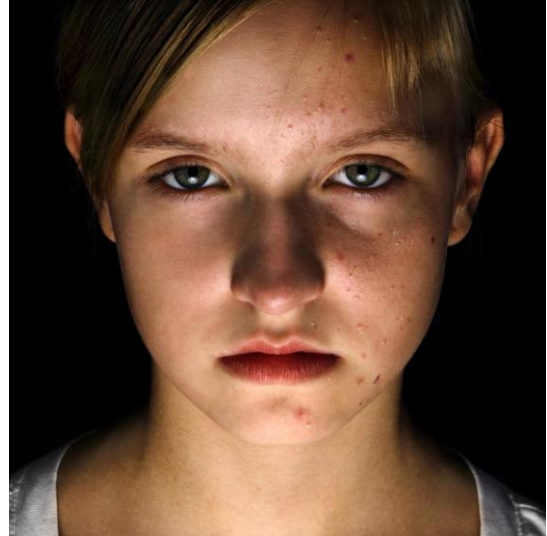


Bedford Company seeks acne sufferers

Following a successful trial in the USA, Bedford-based healthcare company Espère Healthcare are looking for volunteers to trial a new bioactive pillowcase which has been shown to be effective in treating facial acne during sleep.



These new pillowcases are from the DermaTherapy™ range, the first bed linen to receive US FDA approval as a Class 1 Medical Device for the treatment of atopic dermatitis. DermaTherapy™ pillowcases combat acne in two ways. Chronic acne can be irritated by excessive sweating, irritating clothing and bedding. The special fabric from which these pillowcases are woven is not only silky smooth to reduce irritation to the skin on the face but it dissipates heat and channels moisture away from the skin which stops the skin from becoming damp and sticking to the fabric.

Acne is also associated with the bacteria p.acnes and the pillowcases have a clinically proven durable antimicrobial permanently bonded into the fabric. This kills most bacteria including MRSA and those that cause acne, and it also eliminates odours and maintains fabric freshness. The antimicrobial withstands washing at any temperature and remains effective throughout the life of the pillowcase.



Espère Healthcare are looking for a number of acne sufferers to conduct a short trial. Applicants will be asked to supply a “before” photo and fill in a questionnaire at the start, and will be supplied with a set of pillowcases to use for 3 months, at

the end of which a further photo and questionnaire will establish how much the acne has improved. If the results mirror those from the States, volunteers could experience a dramatic reduction of up to 50% in their acne. Interested parties should contact Jo Fletcher at Espère Healthcare Ltd on 01234 834586 or by email jo@esperhealth.co.uk

Date 23 March 2011

Editors notes

Hi res images available on request

Clinical data summary

37 patients suffering from acne on the face were recruited into a study at the Department of Dermatology, Wake Forest University Health Science Department, USA. The study was conducted over 12 weeks with 18 patients using the DermaTherapy pillow cases and 19 patients using an inactive standard pillow case (placebo) to sleep on.

In the DermaTherapy group there was a 40% reduction in non-inflammatory spots compared with only 17% for those patients using the placebo and a 49% reduction in inflammatory lesions compared with only 14% on placebo.

Effect of DermaTherapy on bacterial infection

	% Reduction after 24hours	
	DermaTherapy	100% cotton
E. coli	99.9%	0
Staph.aureus	94.0%	0
Staph.epidermidis	99.9%	0
P.aeruginosa	99.9%	18.0%

More about Espère Healthcare

Established in 2006, Espère Healthcare Ltd was set up to create and develop a totally new market in medical treatment - biofunctional textiles. A wide range of garments has been developed, manufactured from new materials specifically designed to produce therapeutic rather than just protective effects, either on their own or in conjunction with currently used conventional medication.

DermaSilk Therapeutic Clothing was the first success. Developed in Italy from natural silk, this fabric was being used in Europe in a small way as "wellness clothing". Espère saw the opportunity for DermaSilk in the UK as a prescription driven treatment for the management of eczema in children and adults, and DermaSilk has been approved for NHS prescription since 2007. DermaSilk is now included in eczema management guidelines followed by consultant dermatologists, GPs and nurses.

Since the original submission, further products have been added to the DermaSilk prescription portfolio to cover other conditions such as gravitational eczema in the elderly and epidermolysis bullosa, a severe and debilitating skin condition. Further research for the therapeutic use of DermaSilk in other conditions is showing very promising results

DermaTherapy Bedding was developed from a patented specially designed synthetic fabric sourced from the USA. As well as being proven useful for eczema, this bedding has additional potential uses in pressure sore management, a source of significant debilitation amongst the elderly and infirm. The fabric has an antimicrobial finish bonded to it to help contain bacteria such as MRSA & Clostridium difficile.

Espère are also driving the development of these fabrics into new areas, with trials being undertaken in lymphoedema, trench foot and end of life care. Other fabric technologies are also currently being investigated.

Espère Healthcare Ltd is the Distributor of DermaTherapy Bedding in the UK and Ireland.

DermaTherapy® is a registered trademark of Precision Fabrics Group Inc.

For more information about DermaTherapy's line of Healthy Bedding products, visit www.dermatherapybedding.co.uk.

Contact details

For technical information contact Chris Steeples, joint managing director Espère Healthcare
Tel 01234 834614 Mobile 07814 639204 email: chris@esperehealth.co.uk

For media information contact Colin Caldicott, Ultimedia PR
Tel: 01767 601470 Mobile 07905 329616 email: colin@ultimediapr.co.uk