



## New high-tech underwear produces dramatic relief for sufferers of chronic genital skin disease

New UK data confirms that underwear made from a high tech, biofunctional material dramatically reduces the chronic itching and burning sensation of the genital area that plagues the 1 in 300 women in the UK suffering from Lichen Sclerosus. This new data fully supports original clinical trials recently conducted at the University of Bologna.

Lichen sclerosus (LS) is a chronic skin disease that most commonly affects the genital area and can often be misdiagnosed as vaginal thrush. It is an incredibly itchy condition, usually accompanied by a burning sensation which makes it extremely painful. The incessant itching is not only infuriating and embarrassing, but constant scratching leads to the skin splitting, cracking and bleeding. There is no cure, but strong topical steroid creams and emollients often ease the symptoms. Although LS can affect men and women at any age, it most commonly develops in middle aged women, and it's estimated that 10,000 new cases are diagnosed every year.



### **Dramatic improvement within a week**

A group of women in Torbay who still suffered with chronic itching and pain despite previous standard treatment were given new DermaSilk Intimo underwear to be worn in place of their normal underwear for a month to see if it would improve their symptoms. All the women found a dramatic reduction in both itching and pain within a week. In some women the symptoms had completely disappeared after two weeks. Wearing the new underwear, the patients were able to sleep much better, their social life improved and they were able to resume normal sexual activity. One of the women went on holiday and took cotton briefs as she felt they would be easier to wash. However her condition flared up, so she resumed wearing the DermaSilk Intimo briefs and her condition is now back under control.

DermaSilk Intimo biofunctional briefs are made from medical grade fibroin. It is a soft, natural material derived from silk which is hypoallergenic and less irritating than cotton or man-made materials. It is able to absorb moisture and channel it away, maintaining a stable



temperature and humidity balance on the skin. It is also permanently bonded with a patented antimicrobial agent that is effective against most yeasts and bacteria including MRSA and remains fully active despite repeated washing.

Dr Rupert Mason, medical consultant to Espère Healthcare commented, "The itching and pain can make life a complete misery for women who suffer with LS. It's quite remarkable that something as simple as wearing this newly developed underwear can provide such marked relief in just a few days. As there is no medication involved, it means that patients won't develop resistance or intolerance, so they can wear these briefs every day."

DermaSilk Intimo briefs come in a range of designs and cost from £34.95 available exclusively from [www.dermasilkintimo.co.uk](http://www.dermasilkintimo.co.uk).

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### **Editors notes**

Hi res images available on request

### **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 that are 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 is manufactured from specially knitted medical grade fibroin. This is derived from silk which has been stripped of its outer coating to make it hypoallergenic, and is used widely for medical sutures. This fabric is specially bonded with AEM 5772/5, a patented antimicrobial shield which has been used in hospitals for over 30 years and has proven ability to inhibit bacterial and fungal growth on fabrics such as operating theatre gowns. It acts by electrostatically attracting and physically puncturing bacteria and fungi. There is no chemical released from the silk to poison the cells and no chemicals or nano-particles are released onto the skin.

DermaSilk has been approved as a Class 1 medical device for use by the medical profession on NHS prescription since 2007. DermaSilk garments are used in the treatment and management of eczema by consultant dermatologists, GPs and nurses. Further indications 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

The company also supply DermaTherapy Bedding, developed from a patented specially designed synthetic fabric sourced from the USA. Proven useful for treating eczema, this bedding has additional applications in pressure sore management in the elderly and infirm, acne, night sweats and night terrors in children.. The fabric has an antimicrobial finish bonded to it to help counter bacteria such as MRSA & Clostridium difficile.

DermaSilk Intimo is the newest product in the range. The inclusion of 4% elastane compliments the inherent stretch properties of the silk and has led to a new range of seamless designs. The latest clinical trials have shown the efficacy of these garments in relieving symptoms in women suffering from lichen sclerosus and candida infections.

Espère are also driving the development of these fabrics into new areas, and trials are in progress for the use of DermaSilk 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 DermaSilk Intimo's range of biofunctional clothing, visit [www.DermaSilkintimo.co.uk](http://www.DermaSilkintimo.co.uk).

For more information about DermaSilk's range of therapeutic clothing, visit [www.DermaSilk.co.uk](http://www.DermaSilk.co.uk).

For more information about DermaTherapy's line of Healthy Bedding products, visit [www.dermatherapybedding.co.uk](http://www.dermatherapybedding.co.uk)

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