



Press Release 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017

## **Gold dust to help banish the scourge of ACNE**

### *Pioneering dermatologist to run a clinical evaluation trial*

Dr Howard Stevens, founder of The Skincare® Network, is to hold an evaluation trial for a new treatment of acne using tiny particles of gold following the success of the treatment in the US.

The consultant dermatologist says he is looking for 50 patients of all ages to join the trial. “Acne is one of the most common and distressing conditions for anyone to suffer and while it is most common in younger people, especially adolescents, it can affect men and women too,” he said.

**“Acne is unsightly and causes embarrassment and can undermine a person’s confidence and even lead to psychological problems. Stubborn cases may need medicinal creams rubbed into the face daily and some people don’t want to use strong medicines on their face or use treatments that don’t work or take tablets with a poor safety record. This new system could be the answer for these patients.”**

Acne is caused by excessive oil, called sebum, being produced by sebaceous glands. Pores become blocked, bacteria cause inflammation and unsightly spots occur.

After a diagnostic consultation with a leading dermatologist, the treatment, called **Sebacia**, involves a cream containing micro-particles particles containing solid gold being massaged into the affected pores. The doctor then uses a low power laser, usually used for hair removal, to target the problem glands in the areas affected.

Heat changes the glands and reduces the inflammation and over a few days, the unsightly spots disappear.

**The Sebacia treatment is has a ‘CE mark’ for use in this country but dermatologist, Dr Stevens, wants to see just how effective the treatment will**

**be. Every patient will have a consultation, for which there is a modest fee but the actual Sebacia treatment will be free of charge.**

**“If we can show that the gold micro particles are as effective as the current treatments, then this could be a real breakthrough for those people for whom topical medicines don’t work that well,” said Dr Stevens.**

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### **Press Information and Note to Editors**

## **The Skincare® Network**

### **Centres of excellence for dermatology**

The Skin Care® Network provides world class screening, diagnosis and treatment of all skin conditions for both adults and children at its two centres in central and north London, and also at a number of private hospitals in the Capital.

We not only serve patients from London and the Home Counties, but also those from further afield in the UK and others coming from as far away as the Middle East and beyond. Our patients are either self-funded or their medical diagnosis and treatment is covered and paid for by private medical insurance policies.

Founded by one of the UK’s most respected consultant surgeon dermatologists, Dr Howard Stevens, The Network has an international reputation in particular as a centre for screening and for the treatment of skin cancers and other skin conditions.

The Network also provides a range of advanced cosmetic treatments, often to complement medical and surgical treatments.

Its senior consultants and team of highly trained and qualified specialist dermatology nurses, have mostly trained and practiced at some of the Capital’s renowned teaching hospitals and indeed, some of our consultants currently hold senior positions within those NHS hospitals.

Unlike some other organisations, we do not employ ‘beauticians’ and the like.

The Skincare® Network was the first dermatology practice in London to have the benefit of high level Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs), to review treatment

programmes of more complex cancer cases and other conditions, ensuring that patients receive the benefits of the very latest care techniques.

Our doctors and nurses are well aware that patients can be anxious, having suspected a problem and the practice has a policy of ensuring fast access to our senior consultants at our centres in Barnet, north London and in the Fulham Road in Chelsea. Our recent expansion in Chelsea was brought about in order to meet increasing patient demand for our services.

We pride ourselves in utilising the latest and proven diagnostic and treatment technology. It is not unusual for us to be the first practice in the country to install the latest equipment. An example of this is the installation of the first Vivascope confocal microscope which can allow dermatologists to immediately identify abnormal cells or mature cancer cells under the skin without the need for cutting out samples which then have to be sent away for examination, sometimes resulting in patients waiting anxiously for days for the results.

The Skincare® Network is the first and only practice of its kind in the country to use integrated video dermoscopy with the confocal microscope.

The Skincare® Network is subject to the same regulation regime as a leading teaching hospital. We are therefore registered with the Care Quality Commission for the provision of private medical and surgical dermatological practice including the treatment of skin cancer.

In addition, The Skincare® Network is approved by all UK private medical insurance organisations.

**[www.skincarenetwork.co.uk](http://www.skincarenetwork.co.uk)**

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