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Light gun puts cold sores on the spot

By Anne Purkiss, London Press Service

A MEDICAL research company has recently launched an innovative treatment for cold sores after developing an alternative to standard treatments by providing a small handheld device that works on the basis of light emission at a specific wavelength.



The revolutionary treatment of the Virulite CS Device, halves the time needed for a cure by conventional means with a natural therapy that weakens the virus and prevents the recurrence of further attacks. There are no harmful side-effects from the treatment.

The Virulite device is guaranteed to deliver approximately 100 treatment cycles for up to 50 cold sores by emitting low-energy, non-thermal quantities of naturally occurring infrared light in the 1070nm range. The device uses specifically designed light-emitting diodes that treat the area of the cold sore. It needs no batteries and has a lifetime of up to three years.

This product is Dr Gordon Dougal's brainchild - a medical doctor with a second qualification in electronic engineering - and consultant ophthalmologist Jim Haslam. Both are directors of the business.

After 12 years researching the cold sore phenomenon with the light emission, more than 250 patients with cold sores were treated with different non-thermal quantities of narrow waveband light during a three-year period.

Virulite was developed in close collaboration with researchers at Sunderland University, north-east England, and is a partnership that continues to explore new and different aspects of the treatment.

Dr Dougal said: "The product is used to treat cold sores every time they occur, and helps the body to build a resistance to the virus. In most cases it can also give relief from pain within 90 seconds."

The company was originally formed to explore the possibility that within the infrared light spectrum there existed a very narrow but strong waveband of light that were responsible for therapeutic effects.

Today, Virulite holds worldwide patents for its new product and exports it to 12 countries.

Up to now more than 10,000 of the small devices have been produced. Other applications for the device include, for instance, the treatment of mouth ulcers that will require further clinical trials.

In the longer term Dr Dougal plans to launch a new product aimed at the potential cosmetic applications of the method in the field of skin care. In the immediate future the company intends to concentrate its research efforts on more clinical trials to get the product approved for UK's National Health Service prescriptions.

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