

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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NEW STUDY FINDS OVACE WASH EFFECTIVE IN CONTROLLING SEBORRHEIC DERMATITIS

FORT WORTH, Texas (May 19, 2003) – A new clinical study found that Ovace™ (sodium sulfacetamide 10%) Wash achieved exceptional efficacy and patient acceptance in the management of facial seborrheic dermatitis, which is estimated to affect more than 9 million Americans.

In the multicenter study, Ovace Wash was used twice daily by patients with mild to moderate seborrheic dermatitis of the facial area. The novel foaming gel formulation successfully managed the erythema, scaling and roughness in all 40 subjects completing the study after 21 days, and the vast majority indicated they would continue to use the wash to keep the signs and symptoms at bay.

“The advent of Ovace makes it easy for patients to control this common and chronic condition on a daily basis,” said Dr. Rainer Maas-Irslinger, medical director of Healthpoint, Ltd., which developed the medicated wash. “It provides a convenient, gentle, fragrance-free therapy that can easily replace soap in their regular facial cleansing routines.”

The non-steroidal formulation is safe to use around the eyes and does not contain sulfur, which tends to cake and leave an unpleasant odor. Its active ingredient, sodium sulfacetamide, supplies a broad spectrum of activity against *P. ovale* as well as both gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria, allowing for rapid therapeutic outcomes.

In the recent study, patients were treated with Ovace Wash for 10 days. Treatment was then discontinued for one day and reinitiated for 10 more days, two-thirds had minimal or apparent seborrheic dermatitis. After 21 days, 100 percent of the patients required no further treatment.

Nearly 90 percent of those who had used another product said they preferred Ovace, and 93 percent said they would continue washing with Ovace.

The study was conducted by Dr. Michael Jarratt of Baylor College of Medicine; Dr. Helen Torok of HMT Dermatology Associates, Inc.; and Dr. Jonathan Weiss of Gwinnett Clinical Research Center.

Seborrheic dermatitis is a chronic inflammation of the skin characterized by a red, scaly, itchy or burning rash that may appear in various locations on the body. It tends to appear near the sebaceous (oil) glands on the face, most commonly in the creases around the nose, the forehead, inner eyebrows and external

ear canal.

Ovace Wash is a light, non-irritating formulation that readily penetrates facial hair, and when washed off no tackiness or scent remains. Women can apply cosmetics immediately after using the product, with no waiting or drying time.

Ovace Wash is available in 12-ounce and 6-ounce bottles. This prescription therapy is contraindicated in persons with known or suspected hypersensitivity to sulfonamides or to any ingredients of the product. Reports of irritation and hypersensitivity to sodium sulfacetamide are uncommon. Instance of Stevens-Johnson syndrome and systemic lupus erythematosus have been reported with sulfonamides.

Founded in 1992, Healthpoint, Ltd. is a rapidly growing pharmaceutical company that specializes in the research, development and marketing of branded prescription drugs, over-the-counter health care products and medical devices for dermatology, infection prevention and tissue management. More information on Ovace Wash is available by calling 800/441-8227.

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