



Dedicated Care and Enhancement of Skin



- [Home](#)

Research continues into PDT treatments for acne

Research into the effectiveness of laser and light therapies in treating acne continues in America. Common acne treatments include topical creams and oral medications, such as antibiotics and isotretinoin. But some patients do not respond to these treatments, or do not want the side effects, or do not want to take drugs as their effects cannot be isolated to the area needing treatment. Light therapy, and in particular Photodynamic Therapy (PDT), shows good results in both the US and UK.

PDT has been used for several years for a range of skin conditions, although it is not yet approved by America's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as an acne treatment. However, it is known that certain pharmaceutical ingredients that are sensitive to light can kill acne when turned on by specific light wavelengths. One type of PDT is already on the market for acne and others are in development.

Acne is a chronic skin condition that affects all young people and can persist into adult life. It causes spots to develop, usually on the face, back and chest. It is thought to arise from increased levels of sex hormones around puberty which cause the sebaceous glands to enlarge. This leads to increased levels of sebum production which block the skin pores leading to black heads, then to acne pimples or pustules and follicular rupture.

There are concerns about the side effects of current drugs, such as Accutane, used in America. A PDT treatment for moderate-to-severe acne is being

developed by Eastern Virginia Medical School, in conjunction with Oslo-based specialty drug maker Photocure. David Pariser, dermatology professor at the Medical School, says: "There's a real therapeutic need for a treatment that can be used to treat moderate-to-severe acne that doesn't involve Accutane."

PDT will appeal to patients because they are topical and don't involve introducing medicine to the entire body. It is also effectively treats basal cell carcinoma and actinic keratosis.

At Skin Care Network we offer PDT for acne patients in certain circumstances:

- Those with recalcitrant acne (the most difficult type)
- Those with inflammatory acne, including popular, pustular and nodular acne
- Those with nodulo-cystic acne that has failed to respond to other treatments

<http://www.skincarenetwork.co.uk/condition-acne-treatment-north-london.php>