

## Report from the VI<sup>th</sup> Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology Annual Evidence Based Update Meeting

Infectious Skin Disorders Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007 Holywell Park, Loughborough



Following on from the popularity of the venue for the 2006 meeting, the 2007 annual evidence based update meeting was again held at Holywell Park in Loughborough. The subject topic for the event, infectious skin disorders, was nominated by the previous years' delegates and for those brave enough to venture into the murky Midlands in May a thoroughly enjoyable and informative day was had by all.

As always chaired by the incomparable Hywel Williams, the day kicked off to a good start with presentations of Cochrane reviews from two Dutch colleagues, Hans van der Wouden and Sander Koning reviewing interventions for cutaneous molluscum contagiosum and impetigo respectively. Both presentations generated a huge amount of debate and questions from a wide cross section of the floor. We were then treated to an extremely interesting talk by Sue Johnson, a nurse practitioner specialising in leg ulcers and lymphoedema, from Doncaster and Bassetlaw NHS trust, on a recent RCT she had conducted looking at the use of Vibro-pulse therapy in the treatment of cellulitis. The morning was nicely rounded off by the much anticipated Question and Answer session looking at a variety of bacterial, fungal and viral disorders with the speakers from the day being aided and abetted by UK experts in the field Beverley Adriaans, Jane Sterling and Claire Fuller.

After an extremely enjoyable lunch, we were given an excellent and thought provoking presentation by Oliver Chosidow from Paris who gave a comprehensive review on managing patients with cellulitis and the evidence for what we do. The cellulitis theme was continued by Jane Bradshaw, a cellulitis patient of many years standing who gave a patients' perspective of what it is like to live with lymphoedema and cellulitis. Jane is a local area representative for the lymphoedema support network (LSN). The LSN attended the meeting as a patient support group, and were delighted with the enthusiasm and interest they received from the attending clinicians. A review of the UK DCTN PATCH trial, a multi centre RCT looking at the use of

prophylactic antibiotics in the treatment and prevention of cellulitis, completed the comprehensive evaluation of this common and debilitating disorder. Presented by the senior trial manager, Joanne Chalmers, an SpR involved in trial recruitment Debbie Shipley and a most entertaining trial participant Michael Woods, this overview stimulated a number of delegates to become involved as potential recruiting centres for the study.

And so the day ended as it began with a Cochrane presentation by another European colleague, Urba Gonzalez from Barcelona giving an admirable review of systemic antifungal therapy for tinea capitis in children. This, along with most of the other presentations from the day can be found on the UK DCTN website [www.ukdctn.org](http://www.ukdctn.org).

Once again this was a first rate evidence based update meeting which gave its attendees a true international perspective on infectious skin disorders. It is encouraging and heartening to see a meeting linking evidence with clinical management resulting in such a high proportion of delegates (over 50%) reporting that they will be amending their clinical practice as a result of attending.