



Newsletter

PARISH DERMATOLOGY
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New Concepts about Acne...

The cause of acne has long concerned dermatologists, and for that matter, patients. Saying that stress causes pimples is a cop-out, and blaming diet has long been debunked, following a study where volunteers ate a pound of chocolate for 30 days without having any acne flares.

The mainstay of contemporary acne therapy centers on the use of oral antimicrobial agents. If acne could not be proven to be a bacterial disease, how then do antibiotics, such as tetracycline, doxycycline, or erythromycin work? Why is penicillin not the treatment of choice for acne?

For some time, *Propionibacterium acnes*, has been thought to play a role in

creating comedones, papules, and pustules on the face. This bacterium lives in the hair follicles and the pilo-sebaceous openings. where it might create havoc .

Scientists have now been able to sequence its genome and have found that it has a circular chromosome with 2,333 genes. *P. acnes* also has genes for encoding enzymes which degrade the skin, thus causing inflammation and producing waste products that serve as its own food supply. Perhaps, antibiotics are acting as antimicrobials in acne, after all, in addition to their anti-inflammatory qualities.

This breakthrough should permit the development of novel approaches to the prevention and treatment of acne.

Israeli Dermatology Congress



Drs. Lawrence Charles Parish and Jennifer L. Parish recently attended the 28th Annual Meeting of the Israel Society of Dermatology and Venereology in Eilat. Their lectures had the common theme of wound healing; i.e. how the skin heals following injury.

The lecture on decubitus ulcers (bed sores) – LCP – focused on the fact that the skin, the largest organ of the body, can wear out or fail, just as the heart or lungs can. The presentation on pyoderma gangrenosum – JLP – (a type of ulcer) emphasized that pyoderma gangrenosum should usually be treated medically and that the new biologics are providing much help in treating these debilitating breaks in the skin.

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