An Extract from the report:

Use of Emollients And the Diabetic Foot

Carried out on behalf of the University of Ulster by Dr Katie Lagan - Lecturer in Podiatry, School of Health Sciences

PediSalve and its active ingredients:

The active ingredients contained within PediSalve are argan oil and shea butter. The use of such natural ingredients stands out in the current literature for its incorporation into a footcare cream. The use of shea butter has become an increasingly recognised product in the cosmetic industry. Shea butter is extracted from the kernels of the fruit of the Mangifolia tree grown in central Africa. It has been reported as ‘an excellent emollient with great healing properties...high in triglycerides and fatty acids...’ (Bemis, 2006). Shea butter has been used as a base for a variety of cosmetic/medicinal ointments, hair cream, and soap as an illuminant. There are 5 principal fatty acids contained within it-palmitic acid, stearic acid, linoleic acid and arachidonic acid. Stearic acid and oleic acid dominate the fatty acid composition.

The therapeutic benefits of consuming argan oil have also been claimed over eight centuries by natives of Morocco (Monfalouti et al, 2010). From searching the literature, there does not appear to be any other footcare product that contains this as main active ingredient. Traditionally Argan oil has been noted for its cardioprotective properties and for its use in the treatment of skin infections. This may go some way to support the positive anecdotal evidence reported by patients using PediSalve in the management of athlete’s foot.

From conducting a review of the literature, it would appear that PediSalve appears to be the only existing product that does not contain water. It has been blended specifically without water to enable application between the toes and over the entire foot.

PediSalve also contains no chemical additives of any kind. Allergens such as fragrances, irritant essential oils, water and stabilisers have been successfully avoided. Again, this has been carefully considered for the consideration for those with diabetes who need to avoid irritants that may result in inflammatory reactions and/or rashes.
The company (Marble Hill) are forward thinking for using an innovative approach to the production of a product that is novel to what currently exists in the market. The company have also designed the product to be used in conjunction with socks that are supplied with each jar of PediSalve. These are made from a cotton-rich fabric and are designed to aid with its absorption.

Marble Hill are to be commended for having focused and chosen naturally occurring ingredients that are widely known to be effective (albeit available in a variety of forms and used for various conditions) where Shea butter and Argan oil have been well documented for their successful use. The company are currently using the benefits of their recognised properties on their marketing material; e.g. cosmeticians have used Shea butter for decades and it has served as a staple of African pharmacology. As early as 1940 it was noted that skin diseases occurrences was scarce with its use (Pobeda and Sousselier, 1999).

The PediSalve footcare product has been introduced to the Podiatry profession. The product is growing to be a recognised and recommended product (based on positive anecdotal evidence) in the private practice podiatry arena, as well as by pharmacists. Anecdotal evidence at this stage is only available, but those clients who have used it report that it is conditioning, improves the suppleness of skin of the entire foot and in particular for those areas that are most prone to pressure. Further to this the company quite rightly indicate that this may be suitable for clients living on their own with reduced mobility and who do not have assistance with footcare.

A product that is easy to use and encourage regular application can only be welcomed by the Podiatry profession for this and indeed any patient group. The current marketing material available for PediSalve details how this product can be used with ease and the fact that there is no need to wash hands following its application. Podiatrists who are currently recommending the product note its natural form as a real positive for their patients.

_The full text of this study is available on request from:_
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