

The discovery of this treatment was purely accidental, says Australian scientist Dr. Tirant

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A few years ago doctor Michael Tirant developed natural treatment for psoriasis and some patients consider it to be a miracle. Twenty five years ago he stopped following the mainstream of modern medicine and started to work on formulas based solely on medicinal plants and herbs.



Photo by: Ondřej Tichota

Medical Doctor and Scientist Michael Tirant

This 54 year-old native of the Seychelles was one of the participants to the International Dermatology Congress which had started in Prague on Wednesday. On May 20th, besides meeting his fellow dermatologists in the Prague Congress Center, he also met some of his patients.

Twenty five years ago you started to focus on treatment of psoriasis. European tests and studies have proven high efficacy of your products, the rate is between 80 – 90%. How did you discover this combination of natural ingredients, which proves to be so suitable for treatment of this persistent disease?

I have always been interested in medicinal herbs, ever since I was young. I was working on our main product for some time, a product which contained essential oils and herbs. The final combination of all ingredients was my own invention. Naturally, the formula itself had undergone many experiments and was being innovated until I was able to determine the best ratio amongst all components in order to treat a wide range of skin diseases.

How did you find out that it would work for psoriasis?

As many great inventions, this one was also purely accidental. In 1982 I prepared a special treatment for one of my patients who had atopic eczema. He also offered it to his father who

suffered from psoriasis. He introduced him to me and I was astonished that the treatment had worked so well. The incidental use of this medicine followed by great positive results made me specialize on treatment of psoriasis. It also encouraged me in further scientific research with a focus on medicine for other skin diseases. During the last few years I have not really changed the recipe of my psoriasis treatment, because I am happy with its efficacy. However, I continue to develop medicine for other skin diseases, such as acne or various types of eczema.

Do your products work for eczema as well?

Psoriasis and also eczema have triggers which cause that skin starts to “burn”. This can be followed by several types of reactions. Eczema has wider range of these reactions than psoriasis therefore it can be very difficult to treat eczema if you do not know what specifically it is that you have to look for. Recently I have modified two formulas especially for treating eczema and we have been using them successfully in Australia and New Zealand.

There are some people in the Czech Republic that use Dr. Michaels products for treating Ictiosys and they say it is the only thing that works. Do you have some experience with this disease as well?

I have been successfully treating Ictiosys for over eight years and I really am very happy and grateful to find out that our products also help fighting this exhausting disease. This disease, as actually all skin diseases, cannot be cured – therefore it is our goal to keep it in remission, which means keeping it without its symptoms or at least under control, in order to help our patients as much as possible. After the treatment patients are again able to move their limbs and fingers, their skin is getting back the lost elasticity. They also start to look better, which has great impact especially on children, as they start to feel “normal” again.

What is psoriasis

Psoriasis is unpleasant, self-immunity skin disease.

On certain body parts the skin starts to grow much faster than normal and produces scales that peel off.

Patients with serious forms of this disease are often diagnosed with depression.

Psoriasis is non-contagious, but sets patients aside from normal life.

Is your treatment absolutely safe for patient's life? Are your products really free of corticosteroids, which are known to have bad side-effects?

This treatment is safe. The results of clinical studies that took place in Austria were so outstanding that they almost seemed unrealistic for standard efficacy results. The investigators in charge of these clinical tests believed that Dr. Michaels product family must contain corticosteroids or calcipotriol. To qualify these issues the Austrian Health Ministry ordered chemical tests to be performed immediately. However, all the results showed that Dr. Michaels product family contains none of these agents.

During the treatment with Dr. Michaels products, should we expect any complications?

It does not happen very often. Sometimes people are sensitive to Cleansing Gel and Skin Conditioner, which in minimum cases cause infection of hair follicle and sometimes itching. But this usually goes away without having to discontinue the treatment.

Do you have experience with treating children and pregnant women? Treatment containing corticosteroids is not really suitable for them.

Our method is suitable also for children and pregnant women.

How long does your treatment take? You talk about eight weeks on average, but some Czech patients say they got healed already after four weeks...

The treatment period can vary, as some people have extremely serious forms of psoriasis. It also depends on how long a patient has suffered this disease. We try to explain to our patients that this treatment can take as long as eight weeks before they can see good results. If their skin gets healed in shorter time, that is even better. Naturally, seeing positive results makes patients even more enthusiastic about this treatment.

Psoriasis is not only a skin disease, but it has to be treated in complex with the whole body. How do you systematize the treatment at your clinic in regard to this?

In order to achieve long-term results, some patients have to focus on so-called “triggers” that can repeatedly worsen their skin condition. It means minimizing stress, for instance. Healthy, balanced diet is very important for each psoriasis patient. However, even the foods can differ as to each individual. If you are exposed to chemicals, this can have negative effect as well. With women, hormones can also play a major role.

What is Ictiosys

Ictiosys is a skin disease when skin keratinizes and looks like fish scales.

There is also one insidious form of psoriasis called psoriatic arthritis. This form of psoriasis attacks joints and is very painful. Can your products help in this case as well?

Psoriatic arthritis is a very painful disease and for this form of psoriasis we use Dr. Michaels Skin Conditioner, which is massaged into joints. This way it gets directly to inflamed elbows, knees and fingers. In Australia, we have been using systematic treatment in such cases. We call it Inflamedic, which is the abbreviation for the treatment of inflammation.

Your product family proves very high efficacy, however, it has not yet become No.1 method used worldwide in treatment of psoriasis. Why?

As it is with many other types of complementary medicine, they do not follow the mainstream of modern medicine. In Europe, there is a strong tradition of using medicinal plants and herbs therefore we get greater support of the medical community. Dermatology professors were willing to carry out clinical studies and were very positive about our product family. They wanted to find out for themselves how effective our products really are. They also wondered how it is possible that complementary medicine can work so well. But now they are convinced and they support the use of our products. We are a small company and I do not have the financial budget that big pharmaceutical companies have. Therefore I am not able to finance the clinical studies in all the countries where they should be conducted in order to get our products registered as pharmaceuticals, for instance in the USA and Australia. Our patients do require that Dr. Michaels products get registered as pharmaceutical, but even in Europe this was a long process which took a long time and cost a lot of money.

If your products really are that successful, I would expect big pharmaceutical companies would want to buy your concession. Have you been proposed that?

It has happened a few times, but I do not want to give pharmaceutical companies the opportunity to buy me out and then put my product family and further research to sleep. So I honestly say NO to their questions. I still insist on further research and I do want to continue the development of new products for various skin diseases, which has always been my dream and motivation. What keeps me going is seeing my patients getting healed by my medication. That is the greatest reward.

What type of disease psoriasis really is? Could you describe it in your own way? There are many theories, which one is yours?

The cause of psoriasis is unknown. However, the generally accepted explanation is that it starts in a latent gene part. If this part gets irritated, it causes the immune system to produce redundant number of skin cells. To these days, psoriasis can not be cured. My research has proven that there are four primary triggers of psoriasis. It is the Koebner phenomenon, which is the injury or wounding of skin, for example after an operation, a bite, a cut, a scratch, etc. Then there are infections inside a human body – acute tonsillitis, tonsil inflammation, herpes zoster and other bacterial or viral infections. And then use or discontinued use of specific drugs, such as steroids, lithium, malaria prophylaxis, anti-inflammatory medicine, some hypertension medicine and antibiotics. Stress can also play a major role.

How many people use your products worldwide?

This is hard to say. There are over 70 000 of them just in Australia and the number is continuously increasing. Besides dozens of thousands of people in Europe there are also thousands of people that order our medication over the internet and those patients come from different countries as well.

Why did you start to study medicine and human health?

I actually wanted to be a pilot at first. But when I was thirteen, I had an accident and almost lost one of my arms. This experience changed my life and I started to be more interested in medicine and in finding ways how to help my friends

How did your studies help you in your battle against psoriasis? You also studied Chinese medicine...

My medical research and biochemistry studies have helped me understand the principles of human body and the ways certain substances can influence its functions and signals. I also learned how certain diseases can influence our body. I have always believed there is more to offer to our patients in regard to their treatment so I stopped following the mainstream of modern medicine which only treats patients with man-made products. At the same time I started to study natural medicine, including the Chinese medicine, and I also studied medicinal plants and herbs and other methods of complementary medicine.

Where are you from originally and where do you live now?

I am originally from the Seychelles and nowadays I live in Mt. Eliza in the state of Victoria in Australia.

Has anyone in your family ever had any skin disease?

Yes, my sister had acne.