

# How Does an Over the Counter Topical called MEBO Scar™ Cosmetically Improve Skin Scars?

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<b>Registration date</b> 07/06/2018	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
<b>Last Edited</b> 14/07/2023	<b>Condition category</b> Skin and Connective Tissue Diseases	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

A scar is a natural part of healing. Most people produce fine, thin scars but this can depend on a number of factors. It is thought that a long time for wound healing and skin closure can cause thicker, more raised scars. These unsatisfactory scars are often itchy, painful and cause distress to the sufferers.

This study aims to investigate how the topical application (surface application) of an over the counter cream called MEBO Scar™ cosmetically improves skin scarring and to determine what changes occur in the new scar tissue and cells.

### Who can participate?

Healthy volunteers aged over 18 years

### What does the study involve?

Participants undergo an 'initial study appointment' (Day 0) where they receive a punch biopsy to create a scar on both upper inner arms. Two weeks later they are asked to apply a topical cream to each of the scars during the study period. During this period they are seen on a fortnightly basis where photographic images are taken of the scars at each visit along with other measurements looking at properties of the scar. Each participant also keeps a diary of how the scar changes over time.

Participants may be in the study for 4 weeks or up to 16 weeks, depending on which group they are allocated to (at random). At the final appointment the scars are biopsied so that they can be evaluated in the lab for further analysis of the effects of both topicals. At that point the participant can leave the trial.

We aim to offer flexible appointments (i.e. early or late appointments). Each visit lasts approximately 30-60 minutes. At the end of the trial all the data is analysed and will answer the question of whether MEBO Scar™ can improve cosmetic scarring.

### What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

There are no direct benefits to participants in this study. Participants are carefully screened so that risks to them taking part (i.e. allergies to any of the topicals or local anaesthetic/dressings) are minimised. They are however left with a scar, which may take time to fade.

Where is the study run from?  
Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?  
January 2016 to May 2017

Who is funding the study?  
Julphar Gulf, Pharmaceutical Industries (UAE)

Who is the main contact?  
Dr Rubinder Basson (scientific)  
rubinder.basson@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk

## Contact information

**Type(s)**  
Scientific

**Contact name**  
Dr Rubinder Basson

**ORCID ID**  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5470-1473>

**Contact details**  
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Research  
Division of Musculoskeletal and Dermatological Sciences,  
Manchester Academic Health Science Centre  
University of Manchester  
Stopford Building  
Oxford Road  
Manchester  
United Kingdom  
M13 9PL

## Additional identifiers

**Protocol serial number**  
Ethical committee UREC ref 16098

## Study information

**Scientific Title**  
Role of MEBO Scar™ cream in enhancing the appearance of cosmetic scars

**Study objectives**  
To evaluate the scar cosmetic appearance - that scars treated with Meboscar™ will have a more improved appearance compared to a positive control (scars treated with Kelo-cote™)

**Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

### **Ethics approval(s)**

University of Manchester Ethics Committee 4 UREC, 21/07/2016, ref: 16098

### **Study design**

Interventional randomised blinded single centre design

### **Primary study design**

Interventional

### **Study type(s)**

Treatment

### **Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Cosmetic skin scarring

### **Interventions**

Participants are screened and allocated into four groups. Each group represents a time point (4, 8, 12, 16 weeks). Participants receive 5 mm punch biopsies to both upper inner arms to create the scar. They are independently randomised as to which arm should receive either treatment or positive control topicals.

Treatment: Meboscar<sup>TM</sup>

Control: Kelo-cote<sup>TM</sup>

Participants apply both topicals according to instructions, (one to each scar, with arms independently randomised by a medical statistician at the University of Manchester). Depending on which group they are in, receive their final biopsy (of the scars) at this time point where they exit the trial.

Topicals are applied from two weeks after the scar is created (on day 0), and up until the point that participant exits the trial (at 4, 8, 12, or 16 weeks).

Topicals are applied twice daily, massaged into the scar for a period of 2 minutes.

Non-invasive measurements are taken on a fortnightly basis for each participants' duration of the trial.

Final scar biopsies are used for histological, gene and protein analysis.

### **Intervention Type**

Drug

### **Phase**

Not Applicable

### **Drug/device/biological/vaccine name(s)**

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### **Primary outcome(s)**

Skin/scar hydration and trans-epidermal water loss is measured using the Dermalab combo (Cortex technologies, Denmark), validated by IHC of hyaluronic acid and qPCR of HYAL 1 and HAS 1.

Colour is measured using the Dermalab combo colour probe (Cortex technologies, Denmark)

Pigmentation is measured using SIAscopy (Medex Health, Canada) - IHC for Melan A and Masson

fontana to look for pigmentation

Erythema is measured using Dermalab combo colour probe (Cortex technologies, Denmark), and SIAscopy (Medx Health, Canada); mast cell tryptase staining

Blood flow is measured using FLPI-2 (Moor Instruments, UK), and OCT (Michelson Diagnostics, UK)

Elasticity is measured using Dermalab combo elasticity probe (Cortex Technologies, Denmark), validated by IHC stains for elastin, and fibronectin, with qPCR of elastin and fibronectin.

Collagen is measured using SIAscopy (Medx Health, Canada) and validated by IHC staining for Collagen I and III, and Herovici staining, and qPCR for COL I and III.

H&E staining is also done on all samples to look at skin/scar thickness and structure.

Transdermal delivery of the topical is also assessed using HPLC and Raman spectroscopy.

All of the above are measured for normal skin (day 0) and at weeks 4, 8, 12 and 16.

### **Key secondary outcome(s)**

Pain, itching and redness are evaluated by the patient using a numerical value out of 10 in a daily diary.

### **Completion date**

31/05/2017

## **Eligibility**

### **Key inclusion criteria**

1. Male or female over 18 years old
2. Between 40-150kg (BMI 20-35)
3. Able to understand study requirements and provide written consent

### **Participant type(s)**

Healthy volunteer

### **Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

### **Age group**

Adult

### **Lower age limit**

18 years

### **Sex**

All

### **Key exclusion criteria**

1. Participants who do not give consent to take part in the study
2. Any subject who in the opinion of the investigator is unable to fully understand the requirements of the trial (for example due to a language barrier), consent or is unable to return for follow-up visits and complete the trial
3. Known allergy to any components of the topical formulation
4. Individuals less than 18 years of age will be excluded from the study

5. Individuals who have a history or evidence of keloid scarring or fibrotic disorders (self reported or determined by physical examination)
6. Participants who are pregnant or are planning to conceive in the next 3 months
7. Participants with a chronic or active skin disorder considered to adversely affect the scar healing by the investigator
8. Participants with any likely healing impairment due to a significant medical condition such as renal, hepatic, haematological, neurological or immune disease, including:
9. Rheumatoid arthritis
10. Chronic renal impairment
11. Diabetes Mellitus
12. Significant hepatic impairment
13. Inadequately or uncontrolled congestive heart failure
14. Malignancy – diagnosed or treated within the past 5 years
15. Immunosuppressive, radiation or chemotherapy within the last three month
16. Participants who are receiving anticoagulant therapy, systemic steroids, hormone replacement therapy or any investigational drugs, or have taken any in the previous month prior to Day 0
17. Participants who have evidence of drug abuse
18. Participants who have had or are known to have serum hepatitis or are carriers of hepatitis B surface antigen, hepatitis B core antibodies or hepatitis C antibodies (previous vaccination against hepatitis B and C is not excluded)
19. Participants who have previously had a positive result to the HIV antibody test, or admit to belong to a high risk group
20. Participants who have been involved in other studies in the past two months prior to Day 0 must discuss the exact details of the previous studies prior to a decision being made of eligibility for inclusion in this trial
21. Exclude participants who are allergic to other amide local anaesthetics
22. Previous MRSA colonisation or infection

**Date of first enrolment**

01/08/2016

**Date of final enrolment**

01/04/2017

## **Locations**

**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

**Study participating centre**

**Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust**

Manchester

United Kingdom

M23 9LT

# Sponsor information

## Organisation

University of Manchester

## ROR

<https://ror.org/027m9bs27>

# Funder(s)

## Funder type

Industry

## Funder Name

Partially funded by Julphar Gulf, Pharmaceutical Industries (UAE)

# Results and Publications

## Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are/will be available upon request from Dr Rubinder Basson, [rubinder.basson@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk](mailto:rubinder.basson@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk)

## IPD sharing plan summary

Available on request

## Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Results article</a>		01/02/2019	14/07/2023	Yes	No
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>	version v1	06/06/2018	02/04/2019	No	Yes
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes