

VRI BioMedical

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SUCCESSFUL PHASE II TRIAL RESULTS FOR ATOPIC DERMATITIS

VRI BioMedical Limited (VRI) announced today a world first – clinical trial results which demonstrate the use of a probiotic to significantly benefit sufferers of moderate to severe **atopic dermatitis**.

The study was conducted independent of VRI, by clinicians led by Associate Professor Susan Prescott at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Perth, WA. The study design was a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial on 56 infants (6 – 18 months of age) and showed that the oral treatment using VRI's proprietary *Lactobacillus fermentum* **PCC™** probiotic strain significantly reduced the symptoms of moderate to severe atopic dermatitis compared with the placebo.

Atopic dermatitis (or **allergic eczema**) is one of the principal subclasses of dermatitis. It affects 10%-15% of children younger than five years of age in developed countries and has a lifetime prevalence of 10%-20%.

The infant atopic dermatitis population remains an area with an unmet clinical need. Recently launched drugs such as "Protopic" from GlaxoSmithKline and "Elidel" from Novartis are only approved for use in children two years and over. Notwithstanding this, they have respective annual sales of approximately USD150m and USD70m.

Conventional therapies for atopic dermatitis are usually considered unsatisfactory as all feature limited efficacy and/or negative side effects – such as those experienced with the use of corticosteroids.

A significant conclusion from this study is that whilst the PCC™ strain has remarkable efficacy in relieving gastrointestinal disorders, its true potential may lie in its potent immune modulation and anti-inflammatory ability – validating VRI's ongoing commitment to the development of probiotic therapeutics for disease conditions beyond gastrointestinal.

VRI has commenced development of natural, safe and clinically effective products based on this study – both as an extension of VRI's proTract™ brand, and as a registered biopharmaceutical which will be out-licensed.

ABOUT VRI BIOMEDICAL

VRI Biomedical Limited (ASX Code: VRI) is an Australian biopharmaceutical company specialising in the development and commercialisation of its world leading **probiotic** technology.

VRI recently launched its proTract™ range of gastrointestinal products in Australian pharmacies and is successfully negotiating distribution/licensing agreements in other countries.

Visit the proTract™ website at www.protract.com.au for detailed information on the products or ask for proTract™ at your local pharmacist.

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Or visit our website at www.vribiomedical.com