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**ST. LUKE'S-ROOSEVELT DERMATOLOGIST'S STUDY
REVEALS THAT BOVINE CARTILAGE OINTMENT
MAY BE KEY TO FASTER POST-SURGICAL WOUND HEALING**

New York, NY -Over the past few years, cosmetic dermatology procedures have become increasingly popular and available. The cutaneous laser resurfacing procedure to treat photodamaged skin, acne scars, post-surgical and post-traumatic scars has benefited thousands of patients. However, the success of the procedure depends upon both surgical technique and meticulous post-operative wound care and there is controversy regarding the best type of wound dressing. Since the dressing is such an important component of the procedure's success, both doctors and patients seek out the latest advances in post-operative wound management.

A recent study conducted by Maritza Perez, M.D., director of cosmetic dermatology at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, suggests that a powdered form of bovine collagen may be effective in ointment form for wound healing after cosmetic procedures. The study also suggests that the ointment (Catrrix 10 Ointment) may facilitate faster healing than a conventional alternative (Aquaphor Original Formula) in treating erythema, edema and skin erosion caused by laser resurfacing of facial skin.

The trial focused on 19 patients who, after completing an Erbium:YAG laser resurfacing treatment, were randomly assigned to receive Catrix 10 Ointment on one side of their face and Aquaphor, a standard over-the-counter ointment, on the other for eight consecutive days. Upon evaluation of the statistics researchers confirmed that the side treated with the bovine collagen ointment healed much faster. “Since the Catrix Ointment facilitates quicker healing, in theory patients treated with it were at less risk for all the complications that open wounds imply,” says Dr. Perez. “Although the mechanism by which bovine cartilage accelerates wound healing is not completely understood, we think it may enhance and accelerate the skin’s own healing process.”

The positive effects on wound healing by pulverized cartilage were first documented in the 1950s. Since then, several studies demonstrating decreased inflammation within a wound associated with bovine cartilage preparations have been reported. Dr. Perez’s study indicates that there is an alternative, approved treatment that may be superior to the conventional wound dressings being used by many physicians and their patients. Since the wound dressing is such an important element of the healing process it behooves both parties to use the best product available.

Catrix Wound Dressing, approved by the FDA in 1998 for the treatment of chronic skin ulcers, is a specially processed bovine cartilage product in the form of a fine, white powder. Catrix contains mucopolysaccharides, collagen and is a natural material that excludes chemical additives. The product used to treat patients in the study contained ten

percent Catrix Wound Dressing powder. Catrix treatment is also available in cream and lip balm formulations. Lescarden, Inc., maker of Catrix Wound Dressing, is a 41-year-old biotech company dedicated to the development of topical products for the treatment of chronic wounds and dermatologic conditions.

Catrix in creams and ointment also serve as a therapeutic companion to skin treatments such as Retin-A, Glycolic Acid, and Accutane. Catrix relieves the irritation and redness that often associated with these therapies, allowing the desired results to be obtained more quickly, while minimizing the unpleasant side effects.

Clinical tests with the product have led dermatologists and plastic surgeons to recommend Catrix to their patients to enhance skin tone and appearance and to reduce the damaging effects of the natural aging process, stress, and exposure to the environment. Catrix treatment is available in four forms: full strength powder for direct application to chronic and open wounds, 10% strength topical ointment for post-dermatological procedures, 5% strength topical moisturizing cream for calming skin irritations, sunburn, and other skin anomalies including mild to moderate psoriasis, and 5% strength lip balm for maintaining lip health and to counteract the effects of Accutane.

For more information about the Catrix product line, the study or to interview Dr. Martiza Perez, M.D, contact Bill Luther at 212-687-1050 or visit www.catrix.com.

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