



## Excellence in Dermatology™

# Fading from Sight: New Advances to Minimize Surgical Scars.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 2 /PRNewswire/ -- There are many reasons for a surgical procedure, including the diagnosis or removal of skin cancer. Regardless of the reason or type, whenever a patient undergoes surgery, there will be a resulting scar. Though a natural part of the body's healing process, scars can be unsightly reminders which make people feel self-conscious, particularly if the scar is located on exposed skin. Today, thanks to new advances, dermatologists are finding better ways to keep surgical scars from leaving their mark.

## Myths about Scar Treatments

Over the years, there have been many different treatments for scars. With continued research, some of these treatments have been proven ineffective. Among those are two topical treatments: topical vitamin E and onion extract.

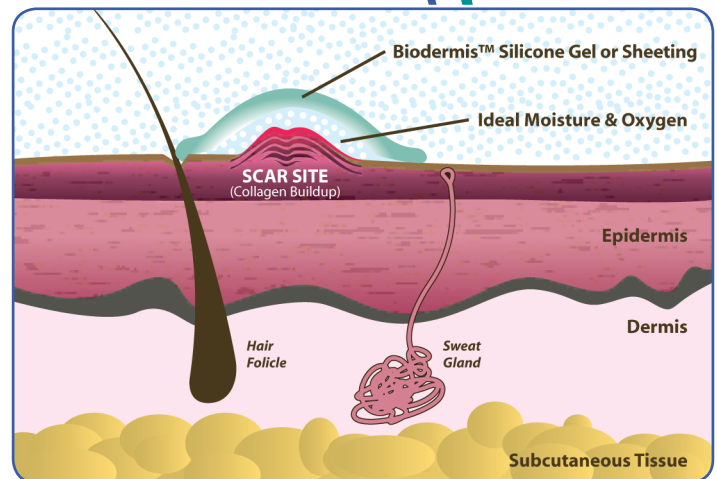
Though many people have used vitamin E to attempt to improve the appearance of scars, studies have shown that there is no benefit and in some cases, its use may actually worsen the scar's appearance. Additionally, many people can develop contact dermatitis to vitamin E.

Many people believe that the onion extract acts as an anti-inflammatory and will inhibit the over production of collagen in a scar. In fact, a recent study on a topical treatment with onion extract showed that it was no more effective than other over-the-counter treatments.

"Scars can be disfiguring and emotionally disturbing," said Dr. Spencer. "With so many treatment options available, it is important that patients work closely with a dermatologist to identify the treatment that will be most beneficial for their scars."

Headquartered in Schaumburg, Ill., the American Academy of Dermatology (Academy), founded in 1938, is the largest, most influential, and most representative of all dermatologic associations. With a membership of more than 15,000 physicians worldwide, the Academy is committed to: advancing the diagnosis and medical, surgical and cosmetic treatment of the skin, hair and nails; advocating high standards in clinical practice, education, and research in dermatology; and supporting and enhancing patient care for a lifetime of healthier skin, hair and nails. For more information, contact the Academy at 1-888-462-DERM (3376) or <http://www.aad.org/>.

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