

## Dental investigation

**THE** US Food and Drug Authority has begun an investigation into the sale of potentially unsafe hand-held dental X-ray units online.

The influx of these machines has led the FDA to warn health professionals to ensure their X-ray devices are fitted with the proper labels.

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## Aussie arthritis sufferers

**OVER** one third of Australians aged over 45 are unable to exercise as much as they would like, according to a new survey undertaken by Deep Heat Naturals.

According to Arthritis Australia currently around 3.85 million Australians suffer from Arthritis, and one in five suffers from chronic pain.

The survey looked specifically at

### Cold sores on Valentine's

**A NEW** study published in *The Journal of Drugs and Dermatology* is giving hope to Aussie cold sore sufferers, after it revealed a new treatment can significantly reduce burning, stinging, acute pain, blistering and skin redness more effectively than existing treatments.

The study compared the efficacy and tolerability of a single use, topical formulation containing copper sulfate pentahydrate and hypericum perforatum (marketed as Dynamiclear) to a topical 5% acyclovir cream standard preparation and use, and found that the odds for being affected by burning and stinging sensation were 1.9 times greater in the acyclovir group, compared to the Dynamiclear group.

Researchers also found that the odds of being affected by symptoms of acute pain, erythema and vesiculation were 1.8, 2.4 and 4.4 times higher in the acyclovir group in comparison to the Dynamiclear group.

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the lifestyles and needs of Baby Boomers and found that 10% of Aussies over 45 need assistance cleaning their home due to pain, and a further 12% cannot play with their grandchildren as much as they like.

"In contrast, fit over 45s are striding ahead with their lives - walking, swimming and going to the gym - creating a gulf between the fit and the sick," Deep Heat Naturals said in a statement.

The survey also found topical treatments, such as Deep Heat, were among the main products used by over 45s, whilst figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found that more than one half of all osteoarthritis sufferers take some form of natural product or complementary therapy for their arthritis pain relief.

### White Glo is still okay

**WHITE** Glo has moved to reassure Australians that its teeth whitening products have not been affected by the ACCC's at-home whitening product recall due to dangerous levels of peroxide (**PD** 13 Dec 2011).

### SensaSlim update

**THE** Brisbane Supreme Court has struck out SensaSlim Director, Peter O'Brien's, defamation case against Dr Ken Harvey, which he launched in reaction to complaints Harvey submitted about SensaSlim.

The court also awarded costs to Harvey's law team.

### Pharmstock launch

**A NEW** way to sell/buy and trade stock between licensed suppliers has launched this month, [Pharmstock.com.au](#).

Registration is free, and the company is offering free advertising until 01 March this year.

## WIN A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF NS-8



This week **PD** and **NS-8** are giving you the chance to win a year's supply of NS-8 Heel Balm.

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### Name one of the ingredients in NS-8

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, Adrian Sung of Pharmacy Online Discount Outlet.

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## Guild Update

### This week's update from the Pharmacy Guild

#### Progress on controlled drugs

The Federal Government has announced progress in the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement project to develop a national recording system for controlled drugs.

The go-ahead for a system developed in Tasmania has been welcomed by the Pharmacy Guild.

National President Kos Sclavos said real time monitoring of controlled drugs has been a priority for the Guild for many years and this is a major reason why the Guild negotiated funding for this important project in the Community Pharmacy Agreement.

This initiative will save lives and it will allow early intervention with patients who are having trouble with controlled drugs.

The Guild will work with Government to allay any privacy concerns patients may have with the initiative.

The Guild will also work with the Government to ensure the IT integration of this project does not create administrative and technical difficulties for pharmacists.

This is a good example of the benefits that are flowing to Australian health care consumers through the Fifth Agreement.

Community pharmacists want every step taken to maximise the quality use of medicines, and discourage abuse.



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia

## New Alzheimer's drug hope

**RESEARCHERS** in the US are boosting the hopes of Alzheimer's sufferers worldwide, with the results of their study which showed bexarotene's promise in correcting the pathological, cognitive and memory deficits caused by the disease in mice.

Published in *Science*, the study found that bexarotene, a skin

cancer drug, cleared accumulations of the amyloid-beta protein in mice, which is associated with impaired learning and memory functions in Alzheimer's patients, in a matter of days.

Following dosage with the drug, mice with Alzheimer's-like symptoms experienced improved cognitive function for up to three months (after which the scientists stopped monitoring), as well as improved social functionality and sense of smell.

"This is a particularly exciting and rewarding study because of the new science we have discovered and the potential promise of a therapy for Alzheimer's disease," said lead author of the study, Dr Gary Landreth, a neuroscientist at Case Western Reserve University.

"We need to be clear - the drug works quite well in mouse models of the disease.

"Our next objective is to ascertain if it acts similarly in humans," he added.

## Ovarian Cancer's KISS

**OVARIAN** Cancer Australia has launched a new KISS campaign, aimed at getting women to Know the Important Signs and Symptoms of ovarian cancer, and to ultimately help them get diagnosed and start appropriate treatment as soon as possible.

"It's concerning that 60% of women are unaware there is no early detection test for ovarian cancer," said Paula Benson, Ovarian Cancer Australia Chair.

"Unfortunately, three out of four cases of ovarian cancer are advanced at the time of diagnosis, meaning the outcomes for women are generally poor," she added.

The four most frequently reported symptoms for ovarian cancer include: abdominal or pelvic pain, increased abdominal size or persistent abdominal bloating, need to urinate often or urgently and difficulty eating or feeling full quickly.

See [www.ovariancancer.net.au](http://www.ovariancancer.net.au).

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

**EAT** yourself thin.

A unique new "weight loss" product has hit the world market this year, promising to help users tone up whilst eating, titled the 'Eat Fit Cutlery' set.

The kit includes a chrome knife and fork, each fitted with a 1kg dumbbell, as well as a spoon featuring a 2kg dumbbell.

"This cutlery and dumbbell mix is designed for fitness fans with a sense of humour," said a Firebox brand spokesperson.



**SCARY** fairytales.

New research has found that one in five parents do not allow their children to read classic fairytales such as Snow White, because they are deemed too scary.

The US survey of 2,000 adults also revealed nearly half of parents shunned Rumpelstiltskin because it featured kidnapping and execution as themes, whilst similar numbers do not approve of Goldilocks because it "condones stealing".

Old-time favourite Cinderella is also being given the cold shoulder for depicting women cleaning all day.

**SCORE** your own Avatar.

Moviegoers who have been dreaming of controlling their own Avatar (in the footsteps of Sam Worthington in James Cameron's epic movie aptly named *Avatar*), now have their chance following advances made by Japanese scientists.

The researchers from Keio University have created an Avatar-style robot, Telesar V, which mimics the movements of its human controller, and even allows wearers to see, hear and feel what it does.

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