8/The Daily Tar Heel/Monday, October 12, 1987

Facing up to the problem of acne: skin experts give advice

By JIM MOCK Staff Writer

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yths associate acne with everything from diet and poor hygiene to sexual activity. Despite years of research, the exact cause of acne remains a mystery; however, dermatologists understand very well the skin

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changes caused by acne and are now able to help most people control pimples.

Dr. Scott Panzer, a N.C. Memorial Hospital dermatology resident, says that many factors are responsible for acne.

"In adolescence, changes in the male-to-female hormone ratio is felt to be at least partially responsible," he says. "This is probably why women on high-estrogen birth control pills usually get improvement in their acne."

Acne is not just an adolescent problem. According to Panzer, onethird of adult women and probably more men have acne.

"Factors known to influence adult acne include cosmetics, drugs, chemicals and certain hormone-

aggravating diseases," Panzer says. Many women experience cosmetic acne. Oil-based products often provoke acne. However, some oil-free cosmetics may also lead to pimples. Dr. Stanley Levy of Chapel Hill Dermatology, who is also director of medical affairs for Almay cosmetics,

says, "Cosmetic acne is the pro-

longed use of any product which contains certain comedogenic (acnecausing) ingredients."

Some of these include lanolins and fatty acid esters found in some oil-free or water-based products.

"Just because a cosmetic is oil-free does not mean it will not provoke acne," Levy says.

Levy stresses that cosmetic effects are usually delayed.

"Most women do not understand that what they put on their face in October will affect their skin in January," he says.

"Cosmetic acne only affects women prone to acne in the first

One

place," he adds, "so these women should keep (their makeup regimen) simple."

He does not recommend the complex regimens promoted by some companies that include cleanser, scrub, toner and moisturizers. He says there is no need for such regimens and that simple gentle washing is much better.

Some acne-provoking drugs include iodides and bromides found in cough medicines, birth control pills, steroids (oral and those applied to the skin), phenobarbitol and lithium. The pill does not always lead to improved acne. Industrial

cutting oils and dioxins used as industrial cleansers are potent acne producers.

Acne treatment is based on the predominant pimple type a person has, such as "blackheads" or inflammatory "whiteheads."

"Comedomal acne (blackheads) is treated with 5 percent benzoyl peroxide and a special skin drug called Retin A, which helps unplug blocked oil glands," Panzer says. "Inflammatory acne (acne with whiteheads and blackheads that usually heal by scarring) is treated with these agents plus oral and topical antibiotics to fight skin bacteria."

Severe cases of acne that resist these drugs may be treated with accutane, a strong drug with many side effects which is very effective against stubborn acne.

Benzoyl peroxide is available over-the-counter, and is the only such drug recommended by Panzer.

"Studies show that the 5 percent preparations are just as effective as the 10 percent strengths and are less irritating. People often do not know that oily skin alone does not cause acne."

Student Health Service (SHS) makes dermatological services available for additional fees upon referral from a student health doctor. A list of cosmetics viewed by NCMH dermatologists as having low acne potential is available through the SHS dermatology clinic, which is held every weekday afternoon on the third floor of the SHS building.

Library looks for new site By ANDREA SHAW





ducted by Chapel Hill Public Library officials show that users of the library on East Franklin Street have not reached a consensus in recommending locations for the town's new \$4

The poll, conducted since early spring, will help a special task force appointed by the Chapel Hill Town Council make a recommendation of possible sites to the library board of directors and the council, said Kathy

"There is a general open-ended question on the survey and we haven't been able to draw any conclusions from the responses," Thompson said.

About 160 library users were polled through Sept. 1. Thompson said the poll should be completed in a month.

Among possible sites suggested by poll respondents are Airport Road near the A&P supermarket, Estes Drive near the Community Center and East Franklin Street near the

Thompson said the on-campus locations of Davis Library and the undergraduate library should have no effect on the committee's decision.

"This is a public library to meet the public's needs," Thompson said. "The University will have no effect

The survey asked respondents to recommend possible library sites and special services they want at the new

These services ranged from an expanded book collection to more meeting space for community groups,

"We plan to make available AV (audio-visual) equipment and materials in addition to computer hardware and software for public use," Thompson said. "We'll have everything automated like reference and

Respondents did agree that they want a site spacious enough to accommodate the large number of users with adequate parking. Thompson said more than 90 percent of library complaints deal with parking.

Preliminary poll results were presented to the town council Oct. 5. The new library, approved in a bond referendum last November, is expected to be completed by 1990.

