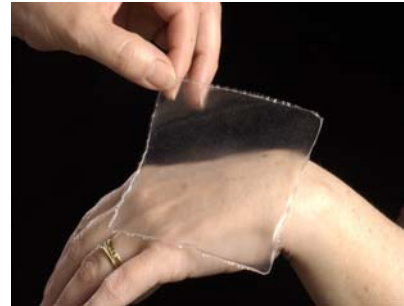


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## Novel Wound Dressing Materials Produced from Pea Starch

A team of researchers led by Professor Cliff Hedley at the John Innes Centre (Norwich, UK) has developed range of novel starch-based films with potential applications as wound dressing materials.



The films comprised of pea starch, glycerol and water, have a unique combination of characteristics making them suitable for use in a wound dressing environment, including excellent moisture handling capabilities, oxygen permeability and antimicrobial properties. In addition, the ingredients are all derived from natural, environmentally sustainable sources, thus providing an attractive alternative to some of the synthetic polymers traditionally used in film-based dressings, and which in some cases have been found to cause allergic reactions in patients.

Through its interactions with the East of England Innovation Relay Centre, PBL has recently teamed up with Polymer Health Technology ([www.polyhealth.com](http://www.polyhealth.com)), a Welsh manufacturer and supplier of materials for the wound dressings industry, in order to transfer the technology out of the laboratory. Starch films have already been made using Polymer Health's cast-films manufacturing process, with conditions currently being optimised for manufacture on a much larger and more economically viable scale.

The starch films technology is the subject of pending worldwide patent applications (International patent publication no. WO 05/118729) assigned to PBL, with collaborators currently being sought to help in its further development, patient testing and commercialisation, in particular companies interested in developing new improved wound dressing products. Preliminary discussions have identified a number of potential wound dressing applications for the technology, including use on burns and various types of ulcers.

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