



Longbow Company Profile



Ambicare Health Ltd (previously known as Lumicure Ltd) has developed a portfolio of wearable light sources for medical and consumer healthcare applications.

Background

Ambicare is a spinout company from the University of St Andrews and Ninewells Hospital in Dundee. The founders, Professor Ifor Samuel and Professor James Ferguson have combined their respective expertise to develop the next generation of light based medical and cosmetic products using new light emitting diode (LED) technologies.

Ambicare is applying its technology and intellectual property to two discrete market opportunities; home use cosmetic applications such as acne and skin rejuvenation and medical applications such as non melanoma skin cancer and severe acne. Ambicare's 'ambulatory' light therapy is particularly suited to the cosmetic and beauty markets where convenience is paramount. Typical treatments include acne and anti ageing.

Initially developed for the treatment of non melanoma skin cancer, the ambulatory treatment has medical applications for skin cancer and severe acne.

Ambulight PDT™

Ambicare's first product launch is the Ambulight PDT™, which is a light-emitting sticking plaster for the treatment of non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC). Simple and easily applied, the plasters are used in Photodynamic therapy (PDT) which is an established alternative to surgery for many forms of skin cancer.

PDT is a multi-step process involving the application of a photosensitive drug followed by controlled exposure to a light source which activates the drug and destroys the diseased cells. PDT treatment is less invasive and avoids the scarring associated with surgical removal of the tumour and the need for an in-patient hospital stay.



Ambulight PDT™ marks a shift from expensive, static high energy sources to cheaper, low energy and 'ambulatory' products. For the healthcare provider, this offers reduced costs and staffing requirements; for patients Ambulight PDT™ offers reduced scarring and pain, as well as access to treatment at the primary care level.

The Market

PDT has become a key treatment for skin cancers, a growing health issue in most of the developed world. The incidence of non-malignant skin cancer continues to grow rapidly and now affects 15% of the UK, 40% of the USA, and 75% of the Australian populations during their lifetimes.

PDT use is expanding, and currently up to 3.2m treatments could be administered by 'ambulatory' PDT annually. This gives a current total addressable market (TAM) in excess of £640m. This is set to rise in the future as the number of skin cancer lesions requiring treatment is doubling every ten years. By 2015, the market potential is forecast to grow to £1bn globally.

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