

Stock Data

Share Price: 1.85p
Market Cap: £19.8m
Shares in issue: 1,072.4m

Company Profile

Sector: Healthcare
Ticker: SKIN
Exchange: AIM

Activities

Integumen plc ('SKIN', 'the Group') is a vertically integrated test services company focused on developing and commercialising technology and products that scientifically prove the impact of skin care product claims for healthcare, life sciences, clinical research, pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries.

Share price performance



Source: [LSE](#)

Past performance is not an indication of future performance.

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Integumen plc

Positioning itself to secure revenues in a post-Pandemic environment desperate to mitigate potential risk of re-transmission of COVID-19 or similar future viruses, Integumen has today announced that its subsidiary, Labskin, will immediately begin the testing of anti-viral treatments on Labskin cloned human skin coated with SARS-CoV-2 virus. In the first instant, this will be to investigate the use of consumer and dental care products that have the potential to influence the spread of the disease. Such a detailed understanding could significantly influence or provide regulatory guidelines for their future design, composition and/or utilisation. In this respect, Integumen appears to be pre-empting international governmental demands to be better equipped and informed in order to fight the spread of any future virus infections across their wider communities.

Identifying products to mitigate the infection risk

Labskin has secured access to the SARS-CoV-2 virus Category 3 laboratory at the University of Aberdeen to assess the strain 'SARS-CoV-2 England/2/2020' regarding its transmissibility impact to and from human skin without exposing human volunteers to potentially hazardous clinical trial contamination risk. As such, strictly controlled *in vitro* tests will undertake the following examinations:

- Study the transferability of viral particles from materials to skin
- Assess the ability of the virus to remain infective while on the skin surface
- Quantify the efficacy of mouthwash and dental care products
- Quantify the efficacy of soap washing and hand sanitisers

The wealth of laboratory reference data generated, potentially supported by Integumen's AI and analytic capabilities, is expected to help scientists to gain a greater understanding of process and means by which virus has been able to so efficiently spread across the globe. Specifically, this work is intended to determine, (i) If the virus is transmissible from different surfaces to airways via skin by measuring its viability when recovered from surface(s) to skin; (ii) Sanitizer efficiency in killing the virus on skin and, (iii) the reduction of titer and/or virulence.

The trial will also investigate consumer and pre-procedural mouthwash dental care products that may mitigate the risk of transmission in dental practices using Labskin grown skin to mimic the oral and nasal cavities. Given also, for example, the proximity of a practitioner's implements to the patient's oropharyngeal region, in the absence of adequate precautions such environments could be considered hazardous with potential to expose patients to cross contamination.

Recognising the needs of a post-Pandemic environment

Having already been contracted to supply European bacteria reagent manufacturing capacity together with the provision of logistical support for [Modern Water's](#) (AIM:MWG) sales, marketing and distribution in the US, EU, China and Japan, Integumen has demonstrated its ability to apply its unique services and technologies to rapidly identify and respond to the urgent needs being presented by the global Pandemic. Today's further initiative potentially opens significant new and long-term market opportunities that simply did not exist just a few months ago. With the weight of anticipated demand from global-scale manufacturers seen likely to test the Group's expanded laboratory capacity before the end of current period financial year, TPI's [Initiation research on Integumen plc](#) (released on 9th January 2020) set a target price of 3.23p/share*.

*£=1.20US\$

Please note our valuation is relative and such valuation may never be realised, therefore please do not base investment decisions on this valuation alone

Background to Integumen's Latest Research Initiative

The word 'integumen' comes from Integumentary system, which means the entire external skin surface, including body cavities. Integumen plc's subsidiary, Labskin, produces the only commercially available lab-grown, full thickness human skin model with entirely human collagen. It can mimic, for example, the outer-most parts of the nose cavity which is a cornified (squamous) mucosa. Collaborating Labskin's technology and Integumen's AI platform with clinical research, medical devices and life science, it is possible for health-care professionals, pharmaceutical manufacturers, cosmetic companies and academic/research institutes to test their products on this human-like skin in a real-world environment.

In May 2020, [a pilot study](#) run by the Surrey Perioperative Anaesthesia & Critical Care Collaborative Research Group at the Royal Surrey County Hospital commenced an investigation as to the ability of povidone-iodine (PVP-I) 0.5% aqueous solution oral/nasal spray and mouthwash to kill the SARS-CoV-2 virus in people with COVID-19. While complicated by problems with the recruitment and administration of patients in a clinical setting, this study is designed to test the hypothesis, as was highlighted in a press briefing by the US's President Trump back in May, that a common medical disinfectant, administered to the mouth and nose of confirmed COVID-19 sufferers has potential to reduce the quantity of the virus in the fluid lining those areas.

While not wholly representing the inner nose mucosa or mouth mucosa, the advantage of Labskin's human skin model is that [mouthwash, oral rinses and related medicines](#) can be tested effectively, as the product has been designed specifically to host bacteria, virus and Fungi. In a laboratory setting, the human skin model can be quickly infected and then offer an extended time window in order to test what is capable (or not) of eliminating target pathogens.

Recognising, of course, that a [dentist cannot treat](#) an individual suffering from COVID-19 in a clinical trial, Labskin's initiative is to provide test results that may indicate the use of pre-treatment mouthwash could lower the risk of transmission from asymptomatic patients in aerosol spray during dental procedures. Labskin also offers an alternative synthetic environment for testing and assessment of transferability, infectious half-life and the effect different products have on the virus's survival in oral and nasal cavities.

Demonstration of this through the tests now to be undertaken at the University of Aberdeen (as detailed in today's announcement, has potential to generate significant interest for such an 'off-the-shelf' solution from researchers, manufacturers and agencies around the world.

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