

Presenter: When it comes to new treatments for wounds, doctors are turning to nature for help. Australian scientists have developed a new cream based on pawpaw and it's having excellent results.

Sophie Scott: Alec Despic became a quadriplegic after a swimming accident. He suffered **pressure sores** which are difficult to heal and can leave him **bedridden** for months. He **was keen to** try the new wound treatment.

Alec: Being a quadriplegic or there have been a lot of people who have been bedridden for years, and just to be able to be speaking to you today in my chair is something that wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for the use of the cream.

Prof Geoff Mitchell: He has started to use the treatment and in two months the ulcer has **shrunk** to about a quarter of its size.

Scott: The treatment was developed by Australian scientists, it's derived from pawpaw. These before and after images show just how effective the cream can be.

Prof Geoff Mitchell: Well, the treatment appears to have an effect on ulcers that is quite remarkable.

Scott: Now a clinical trial is under way at Melbourne's Austin Hospital to see how well the gel can heal wounds.

Assoc Prof Michael Woodward: It's been known for a long time that pawpaw has a **soothing** effect in skin and it's often being used for things like **nappy rashes** and other irritating skin conditions.

Scott: Half the patients will get the real cream, the rest a placebo. Doctors will wait until the results of the trial to see if the treatment can be more widely used, but for Alec Despic it's already a lifesaver.

Alec: This cream has given me the opportunity to still stay at home, still be a father, and still be a boss.

Sophie Scott, ABCnews.

Pressure sores / bedsores = escarres

Bedridden = grabataire

Be keen to = être motivé

Shrink (shrank, shrunk) = rétrécir

Soothing = apaisant

Nappy rash(es) = érythème fessier