

US MICRONEEDLE PATENT GRANTED

Medical technologies group Norwood Abbey Ltd [ASX:NAL] confirms that the US Patent office has advised it has granted an additional patent to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology ('MIT'), flowing from Norwood Abbey's research at MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts. NAL has an exclusive world wide license over this patent and all intellectual property flowing from its sponsored research at MIT.

The patent is US Patent number US 7364568 B2 and titled "Microneedle Transdermal Transport Device". The patent was filed on October 21 2002.

In general terms, the microneedle patent comprises 50 claims and covers a horizontal needle concept for delivering drugs. Control of depth is achieved through the skin being drawn up into holes or ports with a prescribed depth, after which the needles are inserted horizontally and hence drugs are delivered horizontally.

The patent is described in its abstract as follows:

"A transdermal transport device includes a reservoir for holding a formulation of an active principle, and a needle with a bore extending along the length of the needle from a first end of the needle to a second end of the needle. The second end is substantially aligned to a plane parallel to a body surface of a biological body when the device is placed on the body surface. The device also includes an actuator which pumps the formulation through the bore of the needle between a target area of the body and the reservoir".

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