

## Farabloc: a revolutionary treatment for reducing pain

- **Claire Sowerbutt**

Several weeks ago I came across an interesting device that alleviates pain - an electromagnetic shield in the form of soft cloth. The product, called Farabloc, is made of very fine wire mesh woven into a nylon cloth that can be sewn into many different forms including socks, and mittens. I was immediately struck by the implications of this 'device'.

Devised by Frieder Kempe in 1978, Farabloc has been clinically proven in placebo-controlled trials to alleviate phantom limb pain resulting from amputation, as well as delayed onset muscle soreness due to overuse. Although the product is not 'new', it is only in the last few years that it has begun to receive serious medical attention. Perhaps this is because it flies in the face of conventional western medicine by virtue of the fact that it works by manipulating and/or protecting against certain electromagnetic energy frequencies. Not your usual 'two tablets daily' type of pain killer.

Mr. Kempe developed Farabloc to help his father, who is an amputee, deal with his phantom limb pain. Phantom limb pain is characterized by a cramping, stabbing, or crushing sensation in the healed stump, and often patients are given morphine or some form of analgesic to reduce this pain. The device has been tested in Europe and North America, in people who had undergone amputation and were subsequently experiencing phantom limb pain. The results from these studies showed significant reductions in pain in the patients who used Farabloc compared to those who received the placebo cloth. It has been so successful in treating phantom limb pain that many people who have used it have subsequently been able to either reduce or eliminate the need for pain killing agents such as morphine. "It can cost US\$50 to \$60 a month to treat phantom limb pain. And the drugs can induce side effects. Farabloc is drug free and has no undesirable side effects," said Mr. Kempe.

Recently, Health Canada licensed Farabloc as a Class One Medical Device, and organizations including the Worker's Compensation Board of British Columbia, the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, and Blue Cross provide it to their customers. Internationally, Farabloc is recommended and used by The Amputee Coalition of America, and The British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association, Most recently, its use has been endorsed by Veterans' Affairs, in the United States. What does all this mean? Farabloc works - these types of organizations are not easily won over.

Exactly how Farabloc works, however, remains a mystery. A study on its use in patients with delayed onset muscle soreness has shown that Farabloc significantly reduces levels of the enzyme creatine phosphokinase, which is known to produce muscle cramping and pain. As well, it appears to improve blood circulation, which also eases muscle pain.

Research undertaken at the University of British Columbia as part of the study on delayed onset muscle soreness, shows that Farabloc works as a filter, blocking high frequency radiation, a phenomenon called electromagnetic field (EMF) shielding.

"We had the device tested in the engineering and physics department labs at the university. They discovered that Farabloc traps electromagnetic energy. It has a shielding effect on electromagnetic forces," said Douglas Clement, MD, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Medicine, Division of Sports Medicine, University of British Columbia, who designed the award winning study on delayed onset muscle soreness.

"There are studies that show that the permeability of the cell membrane can be influenced by the electromagnetic field. So we have speculated, and it's certainly not

proven by our experiment, that the alteration from a mixed electromagnetic shield, which is current in our environment all the time, has a stabilizing effect on the cell membrane. The damage that occurs in excessive exercise is stopped by stabilizing the cell." Dr. Clement said.

The idea of EMF shielding is quite well established in the areas of engineering and electronics, and fabric shields are routinely used to wrap things like generators that produce electric current. "So the idea is there, although it has not been thought of in a biological sense," said Dr. Clement.

Of course the implications of all of this are quite literally revolutionary. "Up until four to six hundred years ago it was thought that blood circulated in the body in sort of flux motion - or a to-and-fro type motion - not the circulatory system that we now understand," Dr. Clement explained. "When the circulatory system was discovered it meant changing all the understandings of the body up to that point. So, many of the things that we now assume to be true may not be. If we accept this idea of cellular response to EMF then we may have to change a lot of our thinking. It has the potential for total revolution."

Today, people are using the cloth to treat everything from carpal tunnel syndrome to arthritis to low-level muscle pain. Preliminary research into the use of Farabloc to treat fibromyalgia, a debilitating and painful disease that affects muscles, is currently underway in Germany. If you would like more information about Farabloc - how it works, who uses it, and how to order it - visit their website at [www.farabloc.com](http://www.farabloc.com).

This article supported by an educational grant from Farabloc Development Corporation

Claire specializes in writing medical and health related articles for physicians and the general public. As a journalist, she travels across North America covering medical conferences, researching and writing health features for leading medical education news agencies and magazines in Europe and North America. Currently, Claire lives in Vancouver, where she claims that "all this rain keeps me healthy."

Claire Sowerbutt

The information in this column is supplied by the author and reflects his/her views and opinions. The information contained herein does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of Medbroadcast Corporation. Medbroadcast is not responsible for any and all copyright infringements by columnists, writers and authors nor for any and all articles, columns and writings that offend or upset users.