



**¿WHO IS HE?**

Yann Gaslain is CEO of Procare Health, a pharmaceutical company focused on finding solutions for women's health. Among others, he has developed Papilocare, the first treatment to prevent and treat low-grade cervical lesions caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV).

# YANN GASLAIN

**“Papilocare gives us something we didn't have before: a non-invasive treatment for low-grade lesions in women already infected with HPV”**

BY CARMEN LÓPEZ

The data is compelling: at least 80% of women will have the human papillomavirus (HPV) once in her life and, in many occasions, even without knowing it. If the body does not eliminate it naturally, it can end up causing cervical cancer, a disease that affects 2,500 women per year in Spain. In 2017, the Procare Health laboratory launched Papilocare vaginal gel, the first treatment for treating cervical lesions caused by HPV. We have spoken with Yann Gaslain, CEO of Procare Health, so he can explain all about the

details product that can help so many women.

**Why did you start a pharmaceutical company specifically focused on women's health?**

I used to work for Procter & Gamble in Spain. When the crisis broke out in 2008, lots of companies were closed and left a large number of people in the street. I was one of them. At that time, taking into account the knowledge I had acquired after so many years working in the pharmaceutical industry, concretely on looking for women's health solutions.

I saw the logic in following that path. If I couldn't do it at the company I was with, I had to do it by myself. Hence, I created a pharmaceutical laboratory.

**¿Why has it taken so long to find a drug to treat papillomavirus?**

It has only been a few years since the human papilloma virus was discovered to be responsible for cervical cancer. Then, a strategy was put in place to fight against the virus through a vaccine that would be effective in preventing HPV infection.

We have made a major effort to meet the challenge of finding a treatment for the lesions. It takes a certain amount of courage and, at the same time, a lot of luck. This is science: sometimes we make discoveries by chance. In this case, we have looked for it, but, above all, we have found it.

**How does Papilocare gel work exactly?**

It is indicated for women who are already infected with HPV. The mechanism of action of Papilocare helps to restore the conditions needed for the natural healing process. In Spain, there are about two and a half million women infected by the virus. But, of all of them, only 500,000 have ever had a cervical injury.

18-year-old woman will soon clear the virus thanks to her immune system. But a 30- or 35-year-old woman does not have such high immunity, which makes the virus itself more capable of establishing, maintaining and persisting in the organism.

**“The vaccine is the only measure that can eradicate cervical cancer.”**

Papilocare not only creates a barrier effect on the cervix. It also acts on the re-epithelization of the cervix and also on the vaginal microbiota, which we know today is very much related to the persistence of the virus.

**What response have you got from the medical community?**

As we are talking about an important pathology, we visit the doctors and we go to gynecology congresses in order to inform the collective. It has been on the market for two years and the response has been very positive. We have seen that it provides a real solution to a problem that did not have it. According to the recently conducted 'Paloma' study, 85% of the participants have significantly normalized the lesion, compared to the control group that was not treated.

**Can the product be purchased without a prescription?**

Yes, it is possible, although we advise a lot on having a gynecologist involved so he can better guide the patient. We also want patients not to hesitate to discuss Papilocare as a solution with their doctor.

**In addition to Papilocare, they have two other products for HPV: the external gel and the foam. What is the function of each?**

This gel is for external warts, which are difficult to remove, that appear in the genital areas of both men and women because of the virus and are very difficult to remove. In most cases, methods such as laser or other chemical treatment are used. Our product is used to prevent recurrence, to ensure that there is more healing.

The foam is a measure of hygiene. It is likely that the virus has the ability to spread from the cervix or the vagina.

In order to avoid the appearance of lesions in other places, once treated with Papilocare, it is recommended that the patient applies an extra measure of daily hygiene.

**As an expert in the subject, do you have any recommendations?**

There is a very important message that I want to transmit: it is necessary the prevention with the vaccine. We have no economic interest in vaccines, but it is the only method that will allow us to eradicate cervical cancer. The vaccine is not therapeutic, so the infected woman cannot do anything but take measures, such as Papilocare.

