

consumer.. It was eventually written off as waste paper, even though this was costly.

The search for new ways of using the creped base paper continued. While the machine was still under reconstruction, the chief engineer of the factory, Antanas Skaisgiris, fell to thinking about the unique properties of the product that they would soon be manufacturing. You see, the base paper was to be used in the manufacture of cable winding. Very high standards are demanded of the paper. It is made of high-quality and chemically pure pulp. The production line is strictly regulated and the absence of impurities is guaranteed. The purest lake water is used in the production process, and the paper is dried at a temperature of 110-140°C. The chief engineer wondered whether it could be used for medical purposes. However, as there was no surplus, the idea had to be dropped. When the Zhidachev workers abandoned the thought of using the by-product, Skaisgiris again thought of the doctors, and went to see Romas Mitskyavichus, the assistant chief physician of the leading oncological clinic in Lithuania.

"That same day," says Skaisgiris, "Romas and I went to the factory warehouse. There I found several samples of the by-product, and suggested that Romas test the paper at the clinic. Several days later he had good news for me. The base paper had turned out to be highly valuable. It may help us improve the sterilization process and solve one of the most acute problems of Soviet medicine."

This first test of Antanas Skaisgiris' idea took place in the spring of 1987. Soon, the republic's sanitation and epidemiology station became involved in the documentation and scientific