

THURSDAY STYLES

 Crucial to the Close-Up: A Show-Biz Dermatologist

By PETER JARET

WHEN the Oscar-nominated film "The Constant Gardener" began shooting in Africa, Dr. David Colbert, a dermatologist in New York, was ready for anything. "We knew it was going to be hot," he said. "There were going to be all these weird insects. If Rachel Weisz or one of the other actors got a rash or an insect bite, it could cost a huge amount of money if they had to shut the production down."

With his busy practice to maintain, Dr. Colbert could not wait on the set in Kenya for the first pustule to appear. Instead he arranged for the production team to e-mail high-resolution photos of any skin problems, a practice called teledermatology.