

ILLUMINATE GEL MASQUE

A targeted brightening treatment formulated to help reduce dark spots, improve uneven skin tone, and enhance overall radiance. It helps regulate melanin production while gently refining skin texture for a clearer complexion.

KEY BENEFITS

- Helps reduce dark spots & hyperpigmentation
- Brightens & evens skin tone
- Helps reduce blemishes & redness
- Up to 73.4% reduction in inflammatory lesions
- Helps regulate melanin production (tyrpsinase inhibition)
- Improves skin clarity & smoothness
- Refines skin texture & appearance

TREATMENT ENHANCEMENT AND MAINTENANCE AT HOME (TEAMS)

A weekly at home treatment designed to support in-clinic treatments, e.g. Chemical Peels, LED, IPL, Microneedling and help boost the results of at home skincare.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

1. Use 1-2 times per week. Using clean fingers or a silicone brush/applicator to apply a thin, even layer to a clean, dry face. Ensure you avoid facial hair, eyebrows, and the immediate eye area.
2. Leave the mask to set for 8-10 minutes.
3. Once fully dry, gently peel away from the edges to reveal rejuvenated skin and rinse away any minor residue with warm water.

WARNINGS

For external use only. Avoid contact with eyes. If this occurs wash affected area thoroughly with water. If irritation occurs, discontinue use. Store this product below 40°C and away from direct sunlight. An SPF 50+ must be worn and applied regularly whilst using this product.

INGREDIENTS

Aqua (Water), Alcohol Denat., Polyvinyl Alcohol, Isopentyldiol, Alpha-Arbutin, Azelaic Acid, Propylene Glycol, Tranexamic Acid, Silica, Kojic Acid, Acetyl Glucosamine, Parfum (Fragrance), Alumina, Sodium Acetate, Methyl Acetate, Phenoxyethanol, Ethylhexylglycerin, Methanol, Iron Oxides (Ci 77491), Hexamethylindanopyran, Tetramethyl Acetyloctahydronaphthalenes, Geranyl Acetate, Linalyl Acetate, Acetyl Cedrene, Terpineol.

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

Azelaic Acid 2%
Alpha-Arbutin 2%
Tranexamic Acid 1%
Silica 1%
Kojic Acid 0.5%
Acetyl Glucosamine 0.25%

AZELAIC ACID

Ingredient Claims:

Regulates sebum production	Protects the skin from oxidative damage
Gently exfoliates the skin by removing dead skin cells	Soothes irritation
Inhibitory effect on tyrosinase activity to improve skin tone	Brightens skin complexion
Effective against blemishes and redness	

Is naturally found in grains such as rye and barley. It can also be produced by a yeast that naturally lives on skin, known as *Malassezia furfur*. Unlike Glycolic and Lactic Acid which are alpha hydroxy acids, Azelaic Acid is a Dicarboxylic Acid.

It can act as an exfoliating agent to remove dead skin cells and can improve skin conditions related to breakouts and inflammation. Chemically, Azelaic Acid is a dicarboxylic acid it works on skin as a gentle exfoliant which helps unclog pores and refine the skin's surface. Azelaic Acid also delivers antioxidant benefits. It has an anti-inflammatory actions and soothes irritation and inflammation as well as a skin brightening effect and has been found to improve rosacea type skin conditions.

Azelaic Acid was found to have an effect in reducing melasma and has been shown to have a inhibitory effect on tyrosinase so being an effective ingredient in reducing melanin production and pigmentation.

Key Benefits

- Inhibit bacterial growth-Anti-acne
- Balance oil secretion
- Inhibit melanin production
- Inhibit inflammation
- Anti-oxidation
- Prevents skin hyperkeratosis

The Features of Azealic Acid

- Works against acne-causing *Propionibacterium acnes* (P. acnes), an awesome choice for acne-prone skin
- Works on the cells that line hair follicles by changing the way they mature and proliferate, which decreases follicular 'plugging' & helps prevent blackheads, whiteheads
- Has anti-keratinizing effect on normal skin & reduce the synthesis of filamentous keratin & prevents excessive keratinization of hair follicles
- Inhibits the production of reactive oxygen free radicals and exerts anti-inflammatory effects
- Inhibit tyrosinase activity and pigment synthesis in abnormal pigment cells & inhibits DNA synthesis and mitochondrial enzyme activity in abnormal pigment cells
- Help reducing malignant cell proliferation activity & prevent malignant melanoma from developing in malignant freckles
- Especially effective for post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation (that often comes with acne) and melasma (Not for lightening age spots that are called solar lentigines)
- It is a prescription drug in the US but can be freely purchased in the EU in an up to 10% concentration

Acne Treatment

The physiological and pathological mechanisms of acne appear to depend on four major factors, namely:

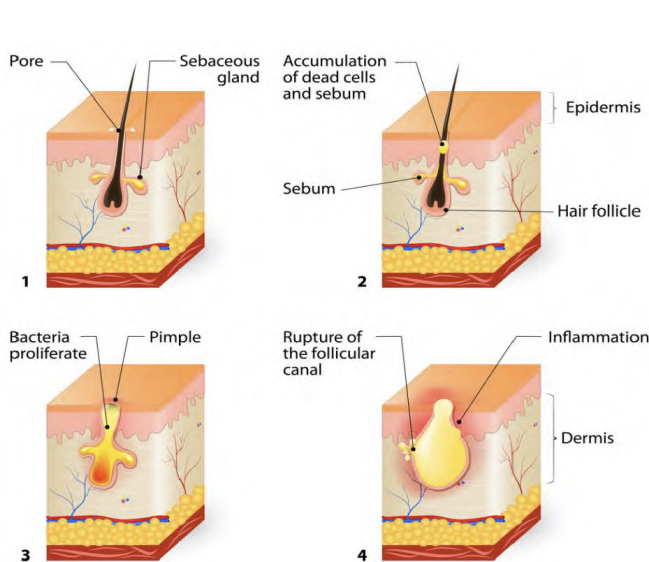
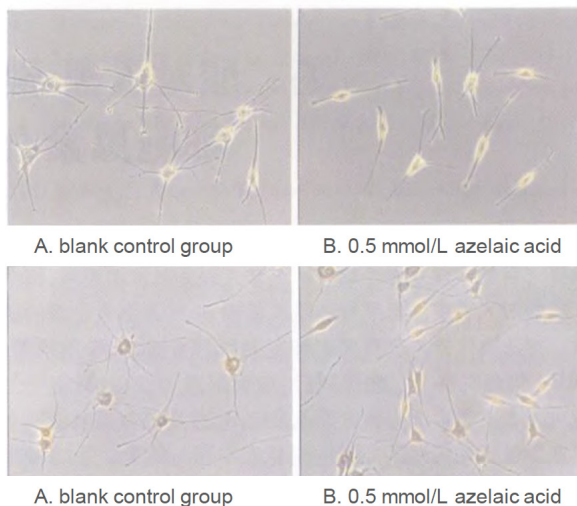


Diagram of acne formation

1. Sebum production and excretion
 2. Keratinization of follicular pathways
 3. Microbial colonization of pilosebaceous units per follicle
 4. Inflammatory responses in the surrounding areas of hair follicles
- Azelaic acid is effective against acne because of its ability to combat all of these activity.
 - Azelaic acid is a competitive inhibitor of mitochondrial oxydoreductases and 5-a-reductase.
 - Azelaic acid also has antibacterial properties against aerobic and anaerobic bacteria, including propionibacterium acnes.
 - Azelaic acid is an antikeratinizing agent, which can inhibit the proliferation of keratinocytes and modulating the differentiation of epidermal cells.

TRP 1 staining



A and B are the control group and the drug group before staining; C and D are the control group and the drug group after TRP-1 staining; A and C can be seen that the dendritic cells of normal cells are mostly 3-5 poles, more After reaching 10 poles, 72 hours after B and D azelaic acid treatment, the cell dendrites were mostly reduced to 2 poles.

Skin Lightening & Whitening

Results:

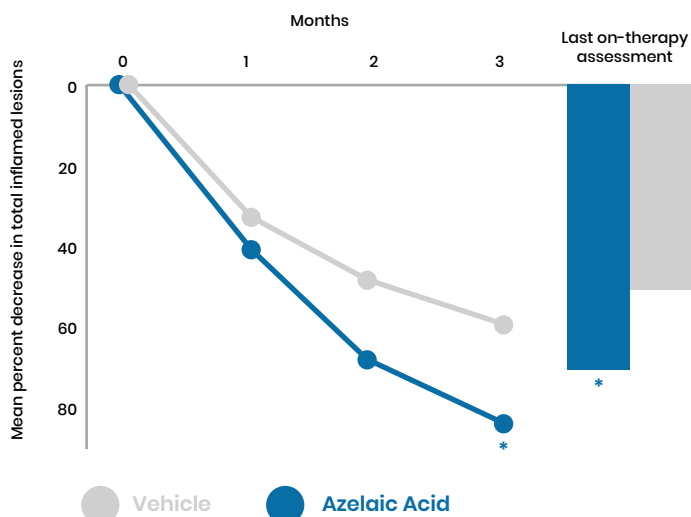
Compared with before staining, brown particles were deposited around the cell body after staining, but no obvious brown particles were seen in the dendrites.

After 72 hours of Azealic Acid treatment of human epidermal MC, dendritic cells were reduced. Normal eepidermal MC dendrites were mostly 3-5 poles, and as many as 10 poles.

After drug action, it can be seen that the dendrites of the cells are mostly reduced to 1-2 poles. In mouse melanoma B₁₆ cells, 72 hours after Azealic Acid treatment, there was no visible morphological change.

Treatment of Papulo-pustular Rosacea

Result:



Azelaic acid cream produced significantly greater reductions than vehicle in total inflammatory lesion count. From baseline to the last on-therapy assessment, the mean decrease in the sum of papules and pustules was 73.4% in the azelaic acid group (mean count at baseline~30.8; last on-therapy count=8.3) compared with 50.6% (mean count at baseline=31.7; last on-therapy count=15.3) in the vehicle group($p=0.011$). Treatment difference was also noted in the completed patients at the month 3 examination ($p=0.012$).

With regard to the single type of inflammatory lesions between-group differences were evident for papules but not for pustules. A mean overall decrease in papules of 71.5%

Link: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/jocd.12217>

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26355614>

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2909138>

Link: [Data on file](#)

ALPHA-ARBUTIN

Ingredient Claims:

Helps inhibit melanin production by targeting tyrosinase activity.	Clinically shown to reduce hyperpigmentation and dark spots with regular use.
Supports brighter, more even skin tone.	Exhibits antioxidant properties, helping protect against oxidative stress.
Helps calm inflammation associated with photo-damage.	Promotes collagen expression under UV stress, supporting skin structure.

Arbutin is a natural glycosylated form of hydroquinone found in plants such as bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), wheat, and pear. It is widely used in cosmetic and dermatological products for its ability to inhibit melanin synthesis — the pigment responsible for skin color — and thus help brighten skin and reduce hyperpigmentation. Arbutin exists as α -arbutin and β -arbutin; α -arbutin is generally considered more potent and stable in topical applications compared with β -arbutin.

Key Benefits of Alpha-Arbutin for Skin:

Reduces melanin production

Arbutin acts as a competitive inhibitor of tyrosinase, the key enzyme involved in melanin synthesis. By inhibiting tyrosinase activity, arbutin reduces the conversion of tyrosine into melanin, resulting in decreased pigment formation within melanocytes. Importantly, this inhibition occurs without damaging melanocyte viability, making arbutin suitable for cosmetic use aimed at long-term tone correction.

Improves hyperpigmentation and dark spots

Clinical and experimental studies demonstrate that topical arbutin reduces UV-induced and existing hyperpigmentation. Repeated topical application leads to a measurable decrease in melanin content in pigmented skin areas, contributing to a visibly brighter and more even complexion over time.

Brightens overall skin tone

By reducing melanin accumulation at the epidermal level, arbutin contributes to overall skin brightening, improving skin clarity and uniformity. This effect is particularly relevant for conditions such as melasma, post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation, and sun-induced discoloration.

Antioxidant protection

Arbutin has demonstrated antioxidant activity, helping to neutralize reactive oxygen species (ROS) generated by UV exposure and environmental stress. This antioxidant effect supports skin protection against oxidative damage, which is a contributing factor to both pigmentation disorders and premature skin ageing.

Anti-inflammatory activity

In UV-exposed skin models, arbutin has been shown to down-regulate pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-1 β , IL-6, and TNF- α . By reducing inflammatory signalling, arbutin may help limit inflammation-induced pigmentation and support calmer, more balanced skin.

Supports skin structure under UV stress

Experimental evidence indicates that arbutin can support collagen type I expression in UVB-irradiated skin models. This suggests a protective role against photo-induced structural degradation, complementing its brightening effects by helping maintain healthier-looking skin.

Links:

[Maeda K., Fukuda M. Arbutin: Mechanism of its depigmenting action in human melanocyte culture. Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, 1996.](#)

[Choi S. et al. Inhibitory effect of arbutin on melanin synthesis and tyrosinase activity in skin models. Pigment Cell Research, 2002.](#)

[Boo Y.C. Arbutin as a skin depigmenting agent with antimelanogenic and antioxidant properties. Antioxidants, 2021.](#)

[Kim J.H. et al. Protective effects of \$\alpha\$ -arbutin against UVB-induced inflammation and collagen degradation. Molecules, 2024.](#)

[SCCS \(Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety\). Opinion on \$\alpha\$ -arbutin safety in cosmetic products, European Commission.](#)

TRANEXAMIC ACID

Evens skin tone and reduces appearance of dark spots	Improves skin texture and reduces skin inflammation
Calms irritated, red skin	Brightens skin complexion

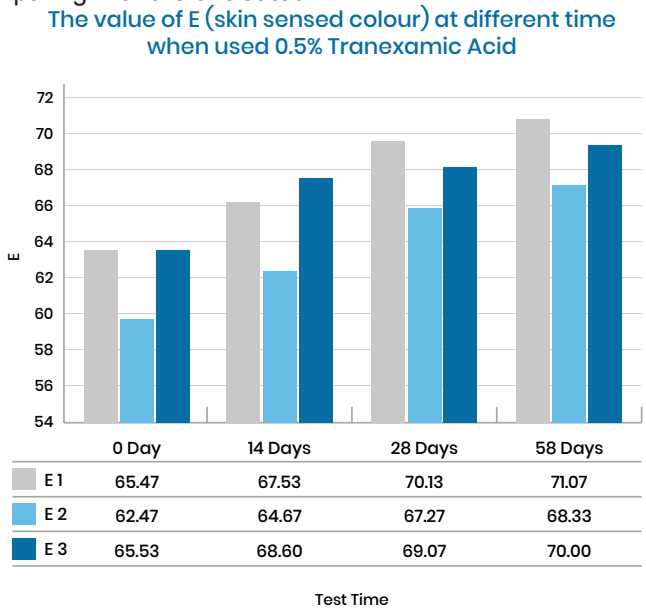
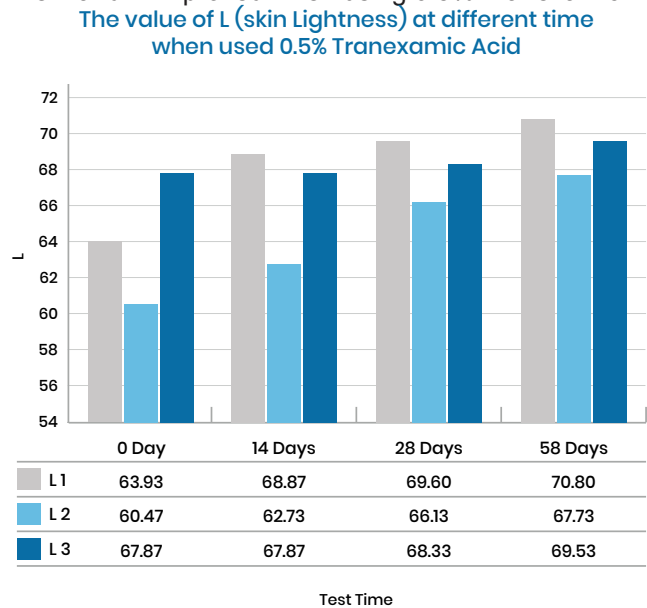
Tranexamic acid is a synthetic form of the amino acid lysine that has been used in medicine for decades to reduce bleeding. In recent years, it has gained popularity as a skin care ingredient for its ability to address hyperpigmentation, inflammation, and signs of ageing. Tranexamic acid has several skin benefits including:

- Hyperpigmentation reduction: Tranexamic acid has been shown to reduce the appearance of dark spots and hyperpigmentation by inhibiting the production of melanin.
- Anti-inflammatory properties: Tranexamic acid has been shown to have anti-inflammatory properties, which can help to calm redness and irritation caused by conditions such as rosacea, acne, and eczema.
- Anti-aging benefits: Tranexamic acid has been shown to help improve skin texture and reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles, likely due to its ability to reduce inflammation and promote collagen production.
- Brightening effect: By reducing hyperpigmentation, tranexamic acid can help to brighten the skin and create a more even complexion.
- Safe for all skin types: Tranexamic acid is generally considered safe for all skin types, including sensitive skin.

Tranexamic acid is a beneficial ingredient for those looking to address hyperpigmentation, inflammation, and signs of aging in their skin care routine.

In-vivo test - Skin Lightening & Whitening Results

The L and E improved when using 0.5% Tranexamic Acid, comparing with the untreated.



Comparing with the untreated, skin lightness improved significantly, skin lightness increased by 3.74% after 14 days, 6.13% after 28 days, 8.21% after 56 days by treating with 0.5% Tranexamic Acid.

Comparing with the untreated, skin sensed colour improved significantly, skin whiteness improved by 3.74% after 14 days, 6.68% after 28 days, 8.23% after 56 days by treating with 0.5% Tranexamic Acid.

In-ViVo test—Skin Lightening & Whitening Results
Lightening & Whitening Pictures (0.5% Tranexamic Acid subject)



Fig. 1 0 day

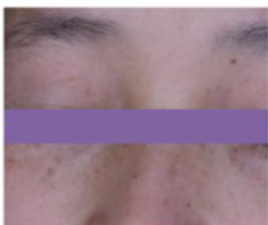


Fig. 2 14 day

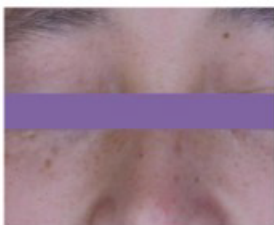


Fig. 3 28 day



Fig. 4 56 day

In-ViVo test—Anti-Spot Results

Anti-Spot pictures (0.5% Tranexamic Acid subject)

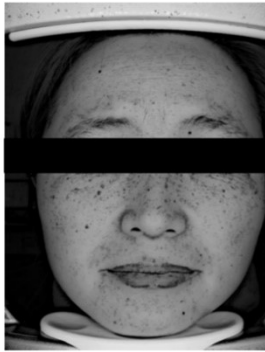


Fig. 1 0 day

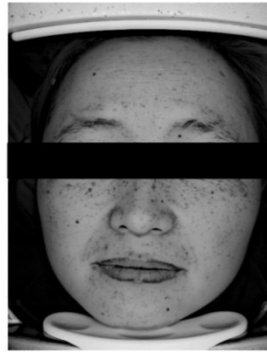


Fig. 2 14 days



Fig. 3 28 days



Fig. 4 56 days

Comparing with the untreated, spot amount & spot area & spot area ratio declined significantly after 14 days. Spot amount declined by 4.17% after 14 days, 8.37% after 28 days, 12.50% after 56 days. Spot area decline 12.04% after 14 days, 18.52% after 28 days, 25.73% after 56 days. Spot area ratio decline 10.81% after 14 days, 18.92% after 28 days, 29.73% after 56 days when treating with (0.5% Tranexamic Acid)

Links:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28374042/>
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30533427/>
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28283893/>
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33518674/>
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35388589/>

KOJIC ACID

Inhibits tyrosinase activity to improve the appearance of dark spots	Skin brightening effect
Improves skin tone	

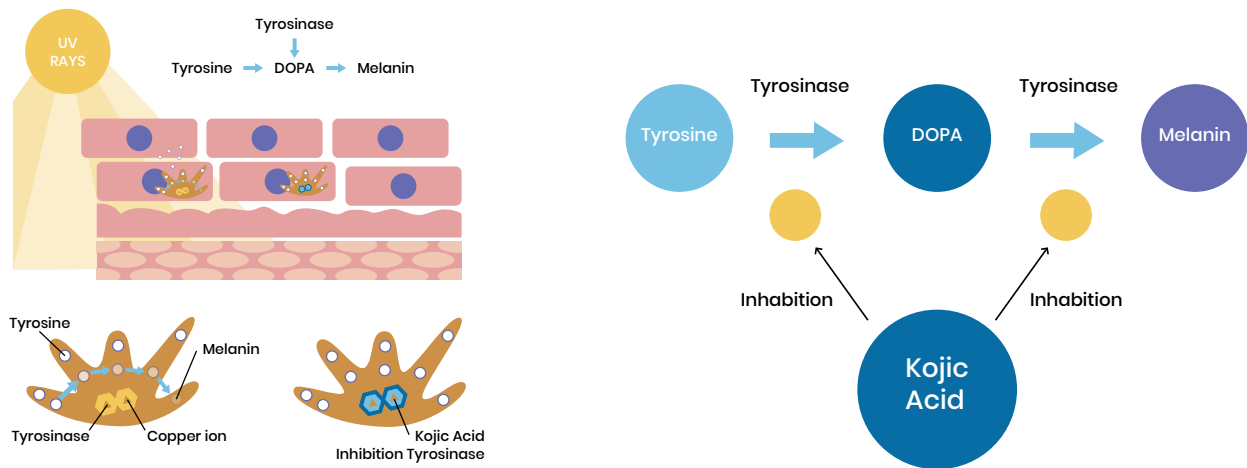
Kojic Acid was discovered in 1907 through isolation from the mycelia of *Aspergillus oryzae* grown on steamed rice (the term koji means steamed rice in Japanese). Kojic Acid is classified in the group of organic acids which is obtained from different types of fungi such as mushrooms and rice malt during the aerobic fermentation process.

Kojic Acid is a natural metabolite that has the ability to inhibit tyrosinase activity essential for the synthesis of melanin. In addition, Kojic acid has antioxidant, anti-proliferative, anti-inflammatory properties. It is a popular skin care ingredient known for its ability to reduce the appearance of hyperpigmentation and improve skin tone.

Key Benefits:

- Tyrosinase inhibitor & Skin lightening agent.
- Ultra-violet filter & Radical scavenging activity.
- Helps collagen production.
- Treats skin disorders such as melasma and other related diseases.
- Acts as an antibiotic against human tubercle bacilli, gram-negative and gram-positive microorganisms.
- Excellent antibacterial activity.

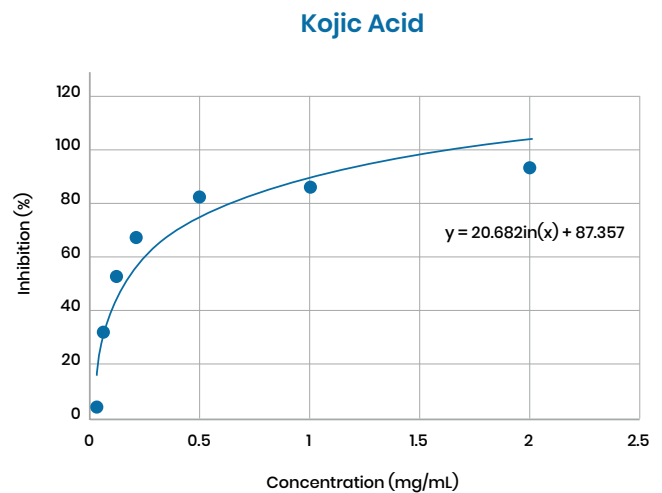
Inhibitory effect on tyrosinase activity:



Tyrosinase contain copper ion in the active site. When exposed to UV rays, the copper ion commands the tyrosinase to become more active.

Kojic Acid captures the copper ion, preventing that from activating the tyrosinase, Kojic Acid can also prevent creating melanin.

Kojic Acid has a strong inhibitory effect on tyrosinase activity. The inhibition rate of 2.0mg/ml. Kojic Acid on tyrosinase enzyme activity can reach 93%, and the IC50 value of Kojic Acid is calculated to 0.16mg/ml according to the dose response curve.



Patients showing improvements in Melasma during the study on the sides with or without Kojic Acid

Improvement in melasma	With Kojic Acid			Without Kojic Acid		
	4 Weeks	8 Weeks	12 Weeks	4 Weeks	8 Weeks	12 Weeks
0	1	0	0	1	0	0
0-25%	18	7	2	19	10	1
25-50%	16	22	14	19	20	20
50-75%	5	8	15	1	10	14
75-99%	0	3	7	0	0	5
Clear	0	0	2	0	0	0
Total	40	40	40	40	40	40

Improvement was assessed as 0-25%, 25-50%, 50-75%, more than 75%, and clear, and given scored of +1, +2, +3, +4, and +5, respectively. All had malar melasma with 3 having melasma on the forehead and chin. They had their melasma for 2 to 10 years, the majority having the condition for more than 5 years. All had previous treatments with Hydroquinone but not Kojic Acid or Glycolic Acid. All had stopped treatments at least 4 weeks prior to the study. Sunlight aggravated melasma in all patients; 21 out of 40 (52.5%) had a family history of melasma.

- At the end of the study, all patients showed improvement in their melasma, regardless of whether Kojic acid was used or not.
- The overall reduction in melasma varied from 25% to 100% or from a score of +1 to +5.
- Only two patients had complete clearance of their melasma, and this was on the side where Kojic Acid was used.

Links:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30537675/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3468271/>

ACETYL GLUCOSAMINE

Increases hyaluronic acid production	Improves the skin's moisture retention
Improves skin texture	Reduces the appearance of dark spots and age spots
Inhibits the production of melanin	Stimulates the production of collagen and elastin
Reduces the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles	

Acetyl glucosamine is a natural compound derived from the amino sugar called glucosamine. Acetyl glucosamine has many biological functions such as its involvement in the production of hyaluronic acid. When acetyl glucosamine is combined with glucuronic acid, it forms hyaluronic acid. It is a popular ingredient in skincare products due to its ability to improve the skin's texture, reduce hyperpigmentation, and provide hydration. Acetyl glucosamine is similar in structure to hyaluronic acid and works by increasing the skin's production of hyaluronic acid, which in turn helps to keep the skin moisturised and plump.

Acetyl glucosamine has several benefits for the skin, including:

- Hydration: It is a precursor for the biosynthesis of hyaluronic acid. So, Acetyl Glucosamine itself is also an important skin-identical ingredient and NMF (Natural Moisturising Factor). Acetyl glucosamine helps to improve the skin's ability to retain moisture, which can help to prevent dryness and dehydration.
- Exfoliation: Acetyl glucosamine can help to gently exfoliate the skin, which can help to remove dead skin cells and improve skin texture.
- Hyperpigmentation reduction: Acetyl glucosamine has been shown to reduce the appearance of hyperpigmentation, such as dark spots and age spots. It works by inhibiting the production of melanin, which is responsible for skin colour.
- Anti-aging benefits: Acetyl glucosamine has been shown to stimulate the production of collagen and elastin, which are essential for maintaining the skin's elasticity and firmness. This can help to reduce the signs of ageing such as fine lines and wrinkles.

Links:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1473-2165.2007.00295.x>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20725554/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19691938/>

SILICA

Ingredient Claims:

Skin feels smoother and softer	Helps control excess oil production
Helps protect skin against environmental aggressors	Soothes irritated skin
Instantly reduces the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles	Improves overall complexion

Silica, also known as silicon dioxide, is a naturally occurring mineral commonly used in skincare products for its potential skin benefits. These include:

- **Absorbent Properties:** Silica has absorbent qualities, which can help control excess oil on the skin's surface. It aids in mattifying the skin and reducing shine, making it beneficial for individuals with oily or combination skin.
- **Mattifying Effect:** Silica can create a soft-focus effect on the skin, blurring the appearance of fine lines, pores, and imperfections. This can result in a smoother and more even complexion.
- **Skin Protection:** Silica has been found to have some protective effects on the skin. It forms a barrier that helps shield the skin from environmental pollutants, such as pollutants and toxins, that can contribute to skin damage and premature aging.
- **Absorption of Excess Moisture:** Silica can absorb excess moisture on the skin, helping to keep it dry and preventing the growth of bacteria and fungi.
- **Skin Soothing:** Silica has soothing properties that can help calm irritated or inflamed skin. It can be beneficial for conditions like acne, eczema, or rashes, providing relief and reducing redness.

Link:

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/nn301622h>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S037851732101245X>

