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ACNEOLOGY TODAY

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MODERN ACNE SCIENCE: BALANCE, BRIGHTEN & REPAIR

Research Highlights

What's New in Topical Therapy for Acne?

Acne is a chronic inflammatory skin disorder driven by multiple factors, including excess sebum production, follicular blockage, bacterial proliferation, inflammation, and hormonal influences. Advances in our understanding of acne pathogenesis have led to the development of newer topical therapies that target these pathways more precisely and effectively.

Key Advances in Topical Acne Treatment

1. Targeted Retinoid Therapy – Trifarotene

Trifarotene is a fourth-generation topical retinoid that selectively targets retinoic acid receptor-γ (RAR-γ), the predominant retinoid receptor in the skin. This selective action helps normalize follicular keratinization while offering improved tolerability and efficacy in both facial and truncal acne.

3. Improved Retinoid Formulations

Newer formulations of established retinoids, including adapalene and tretinoin, utilize advanced delivery systems such as polymeric emulsions, lotions, and microsphere technologies. These innovations enhance skin penetration, reduce irritation, and improve patient adherence.

5. Emerging Therapies on the Horizon

Several novel topical agents are currently under clinical investigation, targeting inflammatory pathways, sebum production, and the skin microbiome. These therapies hold promise for reducing dependence on oral antibiotics and systemic treatments while offering effective long-term acne control.

Clinical Relevance

The expanding range of topical therapies allows for a more personalized approach to acne management. These innovations provide clinicians with effective options that address multiple pathogenic mechanisms, improve tolerability, and may help limit the use of systemic medications.

Reference:

Bains A, et al. New Topical Acne Therapies. Indian Journal of Postgraduate Dermatology. (Review article on emerging topical treatments in acne management.)

2. Topical Anti-Androgen Therapy – Clascoterone

Clascoterone 1% cream is the first topical androgen receptor inhibitor approved for acne treatment. By reducing the effects of androgens directly within the skin, it decreases sebum production and inflammation without systemic hormonal exposure.

4. Focus on Skin Barrier and Inflammation

Modern acne management increasingly recognizes the importance of maintaining skin barrier integrity. New topical formulations incorporate moisturizing and anti-inflammatory components to minimize irritation while maximizing therapeutic benefit.





New-generation topical therapies are transforming acne management by targeting inflammation, hormones, and skin barrier dysfunction-offering improved efficacy, better tolerability, and the potential to reduce reliance on systemic treatments and antibiotics.

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Aquaxyl® – Hydration Without Heaviness Without Supporting Skin Hydration In Acne-prone Skin

Effective acne treatment often requires the use of active ingredients such as retinoids, benzoyl peroxide, and exfoliating agents. While these therapies help control acne, they may also compromise the skin barrier, leading to dryness, tightness, irritation, and increased transepidermal water loss (TEWL). Maintaining adequate hydration is therefore an important component of successful acne management.



What is Aquaxyl® ?

Aquaxyl® is a patented moisturizing complex composed of xylitylglucoside, anhydroxylitol, and xylitol. It is designed to optimize water circulation within the skin and reinforce the epidermal barrier, helping maintain hydration without leaving a greasy or heavy feel on the skin.

How does Aquaxyl® work?

1. Enhances Moisture Circulation

Aquaxyl® helps improve the movement and retention of water within the epidermis by stimulating key hydration mechanisms. This promotes balanced skin hydration and supports overall skin comfort.

2. Strengthens the Skin Barrier

The ingredient helps reinforce the skin's natural protective barrier by promoting the synthesis of essential barrier components. A stronger barrier helps defend against environmental stressors and minimizes moisture loss.

3. Reduces Transepidermal Water Loss (TEWL)

By improving barrier function, Aquaxyl® helps limit excessive water evaporation from the skin surface, maintaining hydration levels and preventing dryness associated with acne treatments.

Why Hydration matters in Acne Management

Acne-prone skin is often mistakenly viewed as needing only oil control. However, inadequate hydration can worsen skin sensitivity and reduce tolerance to treatment.

Benefits of Well-Hydrated Skin

✓ Better Tolerance to Acne Actives

Hydrated skin is generally more resilient and may better tolerate retinoids, benzoyl peroxide, and other acne therapies.

✓ Reduced Irritation and Dryness

Supporting the skin barrier can help minimize common treatment-related adverse effects such as redness, peeling, burning, and tightness.

✓ Improved Treatment Adherence

When patients experience less discomfort, they are more likely to continue therapy consistently, contributing to better treatment outcomes.

✓ Balanced Skin Health

Maintaining hydration supports skin barrier function while avoiding the heavy or greasy feel that many acne patients prefer to avoid.

Clinical Relevance



Modern acne care extends beyond lesion reduction and includes preserving skin barrier integrity. Incorporating moisturizing ingredients such as Aquaxyl® into acne skincare regimens can help maintain hydration, improve tolerability of active treatments, and support long-term adherence.

Aquaxyl® helps maintain skin hydration by improving moisture circulation, strengthening the skin barrier, and reducing transepidermal water loss-supporting comfortable, effective acne treatment without adding heaviness to the skin.

Reference:
1. Draelos ZD. The role of skin care as an integral component in the management of acne vulgaris. J Clin Aesthet Dermatol. 2017;10(12):S5–S17. 2. Kircik LH. The role of moisturizers in addressing various kinds of dermatitis: a review. J Drugs Dermatol. 2018;17(6 Suppl):s44-s50. 3. Rawlings AV, Harding CR. Moisturization and skin barrier function. Dermatol Ther. 2004;17(Suppl 1):43–48. 4. Lodén M. Role of topical emollients and moisturizers in the treatment of dry skin barrier disorders. Am J Clin Dermatol. 2003;4(11):771–788. 5. Voegeli R, Rawlings AV, Doppler S, Schreier T. Increased tratum corneum serine protease activity in acute eczematous skin and its modulation by a xylose-rich moisturizing complex. Int J Cosmet Sci. 2007;29(5):383–390. 6. Seité S, Khemis A, Rougier A, Ortonne JP. Importance of skin hydration and barrier function in dermatological treatments and patient dherence. J EurAcad Dermatol Venereol. 2017;31(Suppl 5):3–9. 7. Aquaxyl® Technical Dossier. SEPPIC Laboratories. Available from: SEPPIC Aquaxyl® Official Information

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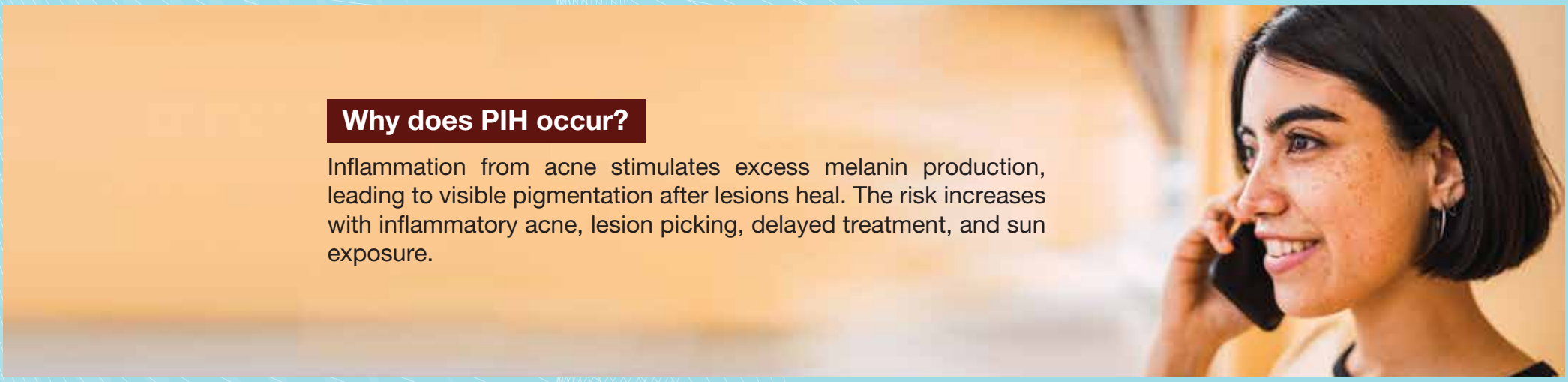
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The Lasting Impact Of Post-acne Pigmentation

For many patients, acne lesions heal—but the marks remain. Post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation (PIH) is one of the most common consequences of acne, particularly in individuals with darker skin phototypes (Fitzpatrick IV–VI). These persistent dark marks can last for months after acne resolves and may significantly affect confidence, self-image, and quality of life.



Why does PIH occur?

Inflammation from acne stimulates excess melanin production, leading to visible pigmentation after lesions heal. The risk increases with inflammatory acne, lesion picking, delayed treatment, and sun exposure.

Modern Acne Care: Beyond Clearing Lesions

Today's acne management focuses not only on controlling breakouts but also on preventing and reducing post-acne marks through:

✓ Early control of inflammation to minimize pigment formation

✓ Skin barrier support to reduce irritation and promote recovery

✓ Daily photoprotection to prevent darkening and persistence of PIH

✓ Targeted brightening ingredients, including:

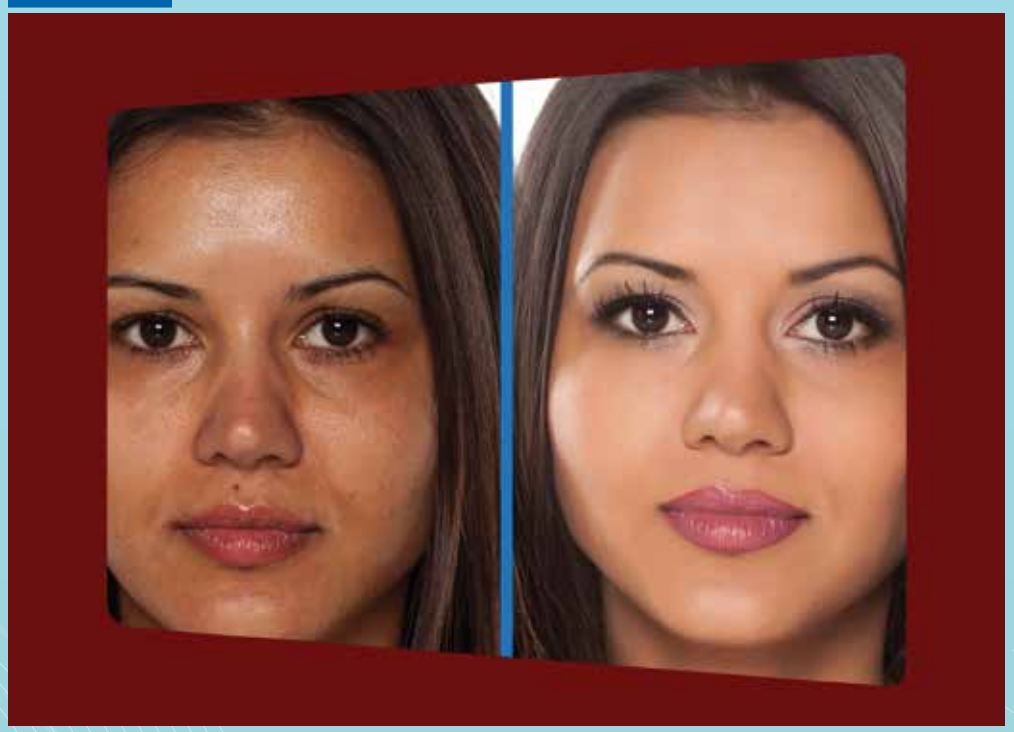
Niacinamide

- Helps reduce melanin transfer
- Supports barrier function
- Provides anti-inflammatory benefits

Kojic Acid

- Inhibits melanin production through tyrosinase inhibition
- Helps fade existing pigmentation
- Complements acne treatment regimens

BEFORE



AFTER

Clinical Relevance

Even when acne is successfully treated, residual pigmentation can remain a major patient concern. Addressing PIH alongside acne can improve treatment satisfaction, adherence, and overall quality of life.

Effective acne management means more than clear skin. Early intervention, sun protection, barrier support, and targeted depigmenting agents such as Niacinamide and Kojic Acid can help prevent and reduce post-acne pigmentation, supporting a clearer and more even skin tone.

Reference:
1. Davis EC, Callender VD. J Clin Aesthet Dermatol. 2010;3(7):20–31. 2. Grimes PE. Semin Cutan Med Surg. 2009;28(2):77–85. 3. Taylor SC, Cook-Bolden F, Rahman Z, et al. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2002;46(2 Suppl):S98–S106. 4. Bissett DL, Oblong JE, Berge CA. Dermatol Surg. 2005;31(7 Pt 2):860–865. 5. Thiboutot D, et al. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2009;60(5 Suppl):S1–S50.

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Tocopherol – Antioxidant Support For Stressed Skin



Acne-prone skin is exposed to ongoing inflammation and oxidative stress, both of which contribute to lesion formation and skin damage. In addition, common acne treatments can sometimes cause dryness, irritation, and barrier disruption. **Tocopherol (Vitamin E) is a well-known antioxidant that helps protect and support stressed skin during acne management.It helps defend against oxidative stress, supports skin recovery & provides emollient support.**

The Synergistic Approach: Why Combination Science Matters

Ingredient	Primary Acne Benefit	Additional Benefit
Niacinamide	Sebum and inflammation control	Barrier support
Kojic Acid	Helps reduce post-acne marks	Skin brightening
Aquaxyl®	Maintains hydration balance	Improves tolerability
Tocopherol	Antioxidant protection	Skin conditioning

Combining active acne-fighting ingredients with hydration, barrier-supporting, brightening, and antioxidant technologies helps address the broader needs of acne-prone skin-supporting better outcomes, improved tolerability, and enhanced patient adherence.

Reference:
1. Dreno B, Gollnick HPM, Kang S, et al. Understanding innate immunity and inflammation in acne: implications for management. J EurAcad Dermatol Venereol. 2015;29(Suppl 4):3–11. 2. Bowe WP, Logan AC. Acne vulgaris, probiotics and the gut-brain-skin axis. Gut Pathog. 2011;3:1. 3. Lin TK, Zhong L, Santiago JL. Anti-inflammatory and skin barrier repair effects of topical application of some plant oils. Int J Mol Sci. 2018;19(1):70. 4. Thiboutot D, Gollnick H, Bettoli V, et al. New insights into the management of acne. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2009;60(5 Suppl):S1–S50. 5. Kircik LH. Role of dermocosmetics in acne management. J Drugs Dermatol. 2011;10(6):s30–s34.

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