

A stick-type formulation containing kojic acid confirmed useful in reducing facial pigmentation

KOSÉ Corporation (HQ: Chuo-ku, Tokyo, President & CEO: Kazutoshi Kobayashi) provided a stick-type formulation containing kojic acid, an active skin-lightening ingredient, to Dr. Tamotsu Ebihara, Associate Professor of Dermatology at Keio University School of Medicine, for conducting a physician-supervised use clinical study of its safety and efficacy. The study clearly showed that there were no adverse events including erythema and vitiligo and that the formulation was useful in reducing pigmentation. This outcome will be published in the article^{*2} by Dr. Tamotsu Ebihara in the April, 2015 issue of “Medical Consultation & New Remedies”^{*1} which is scheduled to be out on May 8.

*1 Monthly journal from Iji Publishing Co., Ltd.

*2 Article titled: “Usefulness of a Stick-Type Formulation Containing Kojic Acid Against Facial Pigmentation”

KOSÉ developed a new stick-type quasi-drug formulation containing kojic acid, an active skin-lightening ingredient, for a product that we began marketing last year. This stick-type formulation is an oil-based solid which can be twisted out of its casing and applied directly to the skin; and therefore, it can easily and precisely coat pigmentation patches. This new formulation was tested by Dr. Tamotsu Ebihara, Associate Professor of Dermatology at Keio University School of Medicine, for its effect of reducing pigmentation. Twenty-one subjects (10 males and 11 females) aged 26 to 56 years, who had pigmentation on the cheek, continued to use the formulation for 24 weeks from September 2013 to April 2014. Most of the subjects showed the result of “slightly reduced”, “reduced”, or better. There were no cases of erythema, vitiligo, or depigmentation in this study period. Likewise, no adverse events were found among 16 subjects without pigmentation who continued to use the formulation for 24 weeks.

The outcome of this study suggests that the stick-type formulation containing kojic acid, which was developed and marketed by KOSÉ, is extremely helpful for anyone suffering from the pigmentation problem. And the result of the safety evaluation clearly shows that the formulation can be used safely.

Kojic acid is an active skin-lightening ingredient in our quasi-drugs that “reduces the production of melanin and prevents freckles caused by sunburn.” KOSÉ initially launched a cream-type quasi-drug containing kojic acid in 1990, and has been developing quasi-drugs using kojic acid as an active ingredient for 25 years in order to help our customers who suffer from the pigmentation problem. Our kojic acid formulations enjoy great popularity among our many long-time customers, and keep evolving to meet their needs.

We will continue to develop and test formulations that are capable of reducing pigmentation, and use them to develop safe and effective skin-lightening cosmetic products.

Usefulness of kojic acid

The easy-to-understand information about kojic acid is available on the KOSÉ research lab website.

◇ Research lab website / R&D-related anecdotes:

<http://www.kose.co.jp/jp/ja/research/secretstory/kojicacid.html>

◇ KOSÉ Technology Special website: <http://www.kose.co.jp/jp/ja/research/technology/kojicacid/>