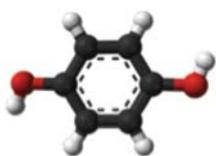


Skin Brightening Gel is a fast, effective way to initially lighten pigmented skin and is the only Rhonda Allison lightening formula containing hydroquinone. With the beneficial, restorative effect of Azelaic, Lactic, Kojic, Salicylic, and Ascorbic acids, this compound adds the perfect balance to strengthen the integrity of the skin. A super-lightening bleach that works deeply into the skin for maximum support, Skin Brighten Gel inhibits the production of melanin, improves texture and fine lines, brighten skin tone and dramatically improves the appearance of skin.

FOCUS INGREDIENTS

Hydroquinone – An aromatic, organic compound that is a type of phenol, having the chemical formula $C_6H_4(OH)_2$. Its chemical structure has two hydroxyl groups bonded to a benzene ring in a para position. Hydroquinone is typically used as a topical application in skin whitening to reduce the color of skin since it does not have a predisposition to cause dermatitis. A white crystalline compound, hydroquinone is also used as an antioxidant, a stabilizer, and a reagent.



Hydroquinone

Hydroquinone is approved by the FDA for skin lightening where 2% is the maximum allowed by law for purchase without a doctor's prescription in USA. Hydroquinone is the quickest and safe topical treatment for lightening skin, brown spots, freckles, melasma, pregnancy mask, balancing skin tone, hyper-pigmentation caused by sun exposure, and aging.

Azelaic Acid – Azelaic acid is a naturally occurring dicarboxylic acid derived

from potato tuber that reversibly inhibits tyrosinase activity. Oxygenating oleic acid, an unsaturated fatty acid found in milk fats or potatoes, creates Azelaic Acid. Its growing role as a “pigment emulsifier” can be traced to its being a component of the great natural emulsifiers called “phospholipids”.

Azelaic Acid has been shown to be effective in the treatment of hyperpigmentation (including melasma).

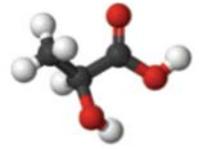


Red Potatoes

It is at least as effective as hydroquinone but it is less irritating and much better tolerated. It also has exfoliating and disinfecting properties. Azelaic acid is also effective in the treatment of comedonal and inflammatory acne, where it has been shown to be as effective as topical tretinoin, benzoyl peroxide, erythromycin and oral tetracycline. Azelaic acid has been shown to be an anti-keratinizing agent, displaying anti-proliferative cytostatic effects on keratinocytes and modulating the early and terminal phases of epidermal differentiation. In addition, azelaic acid has been shown to be effective in the treatment of rosacea and has anti-tumorigenic power, and has synergy with AHAs and BHAs.

L-Lactic Acid – Lactic acid, a gentle AHA exfoliant also known as milk acid, is noted for its rich moisturizing attributes and its ability to exfoliate dead skin cells without provoking skin irritation. Increasing desquamation and evenly thinning the stratum corneum, lactic acid is well known for its skin hydrating and rejuvenating properties. A gentle, yet very effective anti-aging treatment, lactic

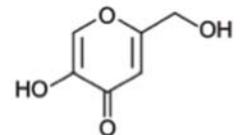
acid also presents the added benefit as a skin softening agent which makes it an excellent option for sensitive skin types.



L-Lactic Acid

- Diminishes fine lines and wrinkles
- Reduces the appearance of age spots
- Reduces hyperpigmentation
- Improves skin texture
- Stimulates collagen production

Kojic Acid – A chelation agent with antibacterial and antifungal properties produced by several species of fungi, especially *Aspergillus Oryzae*, which has the



Kojic Acid

Japanese common name “koji” and is a by-product in the fermentation process of malting rice, used in the manufacturing of sake, the Japanese rice wine. It is a mild inhibitor of the



Aspergillus Oryzae change substance colors - lightening skin and treating skin diseases like melasma.

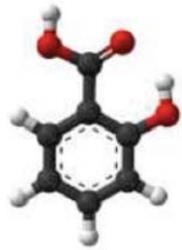
Salicylic Acid – An acid that occurs naturally in wintergreen leaves, licorice, marigold, sweet birch, raspberries, willow bark extract and other plants. Salicylic Acid is a naturally occurring organic acid. A form of it was originally discovered by American Indians in the bark and leaves of certain



White Willow (Salix Alba) Bark

trees. That particular form of salicylic acid was acetyl salicylic acid. It was known and passed down for generations that when that bark was chewed, headaches or other inflammatory processes actually became improved. We know acetyl salicylic acid today as the drug aspirin.

Salicylic acid has been called a beta hydroxy acid but is in reality not a BHA. Salicylic acid has a larger molecule than its cousin, alpha hydroxy acids. The larger molecule size keeps the Salicylic acid on the surface of the skin allowing it to more effectively penetrate and exfoliate within the pore. This action within the pores makes it an ideal exfoliant for use on acne and acne-prone skin. The larger molecule size of salicylic acid produces less irritation than alpha hydroxy acids, making it a welcome alternative for those with sensitive skin.



**Salicylic Acid
Molecule
3D Image**

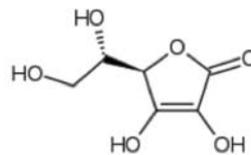
Salicylic Acid is a keratolytic that, in small percentages in a cleanser or moisturizer, can help keep acne-prone skins clear. Combating oxidative stress, it also has some anti-inflammatory properties, as well as antiseptic, fungicidal, antioxidant and bactericidal properties. A chemical trap for free radicals that works well with vitamin C, salicylic acid is able to penetrate the pore to exfoliate inside as well as out, similar to the way benzoyl peroxide functions and is a good substitute for BPO-sensitive patients.

Salicylic acid is also known to contain varying amounts of copper. This copper is suspected by many derma-

tologists to have the power to ward off malignant cell growth (cancer). The acid is also great if you are a sufferer of the condition known as Rosacea, which is an irritating inflammation of the skin on the face.

If a patient is allergic to aspirin, you must not use salicylic acids on them, as they are chemically similar. Salicylic Acid is best on acne-prone and sensitive skin types. The pore-cleansing properties of salicylic acid make it a more effective comedone fighter. Those with sensitive skin who cannot tolerate alpha hydroxy acids may find that they are able to use salicylic acid with good results. As an exfoliant, salicylic acid can actually increase the benefits of other therapies used in conjunction with it. For acne prone skin, retinol makes a good adjunct therapy for salicylic acid.

L-Ascorbic Acid – Also known as vitamin C, L-ascorbic acid is a valuable antioxidant and protectant against photo-damage that is created by sunlight in both the UVB and UVA bands, augmenting the skin's ability to neutralize reactive oxygen singlets [free-radical damage] that are created by the ultraviolet radiation, thereby preventing photodamage to the skin. Used appropriately, topical Vitamin C is an important adjunct to the use of sunscreens, an adjunctive treatment to lessen erythema [redness] in skin resurfacing, a helpful adjunct or an alternative to Retin-A in the treatment of fine wrinkles, and a stimulant to wound healing.



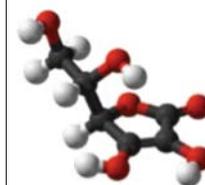
Ascorbic Acid

Since the human body does not pro-

duce Vitamin C, we must obtain it from our diet, supplements and topical products. L-Ascorbic Acid would be the natural form of Vitamin C and is, in fact, the only form that the body can use. Our skin is vulnerable to Vitamin C deficiency because it is utilized first for other bodily functions and very little is actually transported to the skin through the capillaries. Because Vitamin C can reside in the cell membrane, the skin easily utilizes it and it can help to regenerate the Vitamin E radical on a continuous basis.

L-ascorbic acid can also boost collagen synthesis by turning the collagen amino acid, proline, into a chemical messenger that tells fibroblasts to produce more collagen, essential for the growth and repair of tissue cells, gums, blood vessels, bones, and teeth. As a water-soluble antioxidant, Vitamin C is a co-factor for an enzyme crucial in the synthesis of collagen (prolyl hydroxylase). As an antioxidant agent, Vitamin C scavenges and destroys reactive oxidizing agents and other free radicals. Because of this ability, it provides an important protection against damage induced by UV radiation (and the DNA mutations and cancer that may result from it).

Vitamin C improves skin elasticity, decreases wrinkles by stimulating collagen synthesis, reduces erythema, promotes wound healing and suppresses cutaneous pigmentation.



Products containing Vitamin C should be protected from light and containers should be closed carefully after each use. Vitamin C is available in a number of forms (e.g. ascorbate and ascorbyl

palmitate, a lipid-soluble form) and all of them will work equally well.

COMPOSITION

Active Ingredient: Hydroquinone (2.0%)

Inactive Ingredients: Propylene Glycol, Alcohol Denatured, Azelaic Acid, Hamamelis Virginiana (Witch Hazel) Water, Aqua (Water), L-Lactic Acid, Kojic Acid, Salicylic Acid, L-Ascorbic Acid, Methylcellulose