



FRESH KELP EXTRACT

800 mcg of Iodine

NPN 80025431

RESEARCH INFORMATION

Feature summary

Natural Factors Fresh Kelp Extract is a convenient liquid supplement used to support healthy thyroid function.

Kelp is a sea vegetable and a naturally concentrated source of iodine. This essential nutrient is used by the body to produce thyroid hormones and for the maintenance of good health. Kelp also contains a broad spectrum of other ocean-borne minerals, such as potassium, calcium, and magnesium, alongside trace elements, vitamins, and lignans that we rely on for proper nutrition.

Fresh Kelp Extract is hand-harvested in a sustainable manner from the coastal waters of British Columbia. It is rigorously tested for purity to ensure it is free of marine contaminants and heavy metals. Our precision extraction process is used to preserve the natural spectrum of minerals, vitamins, and iodine found in fresh kelp. It is also fortified with potassium iodide to allow for 800 mcg of iodine per 0.033 mL drop, the most concentrated liquid iodine on the market.

Very little iodine is present in land-grown food, making sea vegetables like kelp some of the most available dietary sources found in nature. Supplementing with Fresh Kelp Extract is an effective way to meet the recommended daily requirements of iodine and restore depleted iodine levels in people with low thyroid function.

How it works

Kelp is a natural source of iodine, an essential trace mineral that accumulates from ocean water (Aakre et al., 2021). The thyroid gland concentrates high levels of iodine absorbed from the bloodstream and uses it to produce thyroid hormones (Smyth, 2021). Iodine is a component of the thyroid hormones triiodothyronine (T3) and thyroxine (T4) that travel in the blood and bind to thyroid hormone receptors found on various organs. Thyroid hormones stimulate many of the body's systems to trigger cellular and physiological functions, such as regulating growth, developing the nervous system, and metabolizing food into energy (Aakre et al., 2021; Krela-Kaźmierczak et al., 2021). Iodine itself also works as an antioxidant that may lower inflammatory processes (Krela-Kaźmierczak et al., 2021).

An inadequate iodine intake or consuming too much iodine can both negatively affect thyroid function. Iodine deficiency can result in goitre and an underactive thyroid (hypothyroidism), while too much can cause an overactive thyroid (hyperthyroidism). Hypothyroidism can then lead to a range of disorders called iodine-deficiency disorders (IDDs) (Aakre et al., 2021).

In addition to iodine, kelp contains a broad spectrum of essential minerals like calcium, magnesium, potassium, and sodium. It also contains vitamins, fibres such as alginate, and amino acids, which support many functions in the body (Cherry et al., 2019; Blikra et al., 2022).

Research

People have been consuming seaweeds, such as kelp, for centuries for their nutritional and medicinal properties (Peñalver et al., 2020). Kelp is a type of brown seaweed that is particularly efficient at taking up and concentrating iodine from seawater, making it a rich source of this essential mineral (Blikra et al., 2022; Smyth, 2021). Iodine is found in very few land-based foods, but is present at high levels in kelp (Aakre et al., 2020). Kelp is also considered a highly bioavailable source of iodine that can fulfill the body's needs with only a small amount (Blikra et al., 2022).

Healthy thyroid function relies on an adequate daily intake of iodine because this key element is used for the synthesis of thyroid hormone (Aakre et al., 2020). When iodine intake is low, hypothyroidism can develop, leading to impaired growth and development and immune function disorders (Blikra et al., 2022; Mathiapparanam et al., 2022). Recent studies show that iodine status is declining in industrialized countries (Hatch-McChesney & Lieberman, 2022). A national health survey determined that 12% of Canadian adults had moderate-to-severe iodine deficiency (Mathiapparanam et al., 2022). While taking iodine supplements and eating dairy products were associated with protection against iodine deficiency, alcohol consumption and smoking were found to increase the risk for deficiency (Mathiapparanam et al., 2022).

Despite government efforts to increase iodine intake in vulnerable populations through iodized salt, some people, such as vegans, vegetarians, pescatarians, and women of childbearing age, often do not achieve their recommended intake (Smyth, 2021; Mathiapparanam et al., 2022). In a European study, half of the vegetarians and vegans tested did not consume the recommended intake of iodine (Grouffh-Jacobsen et al., 2020). Eating a reduced-sodium diet, which is recommended for maintaining heart health, is also suspected to be a contributing factor to an insufficient iodine intake in some people (Mathiapparanam et al., 2022).

Although consuming kelp in its raw form provides a rich source of iodine, the concentration of iodine can vary widely, risking an intake above the recommended upper limit. Consuming kelp as a standardized and purified extract provides a way to maintain an iodine intake within a carefully controlled concentration and avoid exposure to marine contaminants (Aakre et al., 2020).

In a clinical study, patients with insufficient thyroid hormone production were supplemented with powdered kelp that provided 200–400 mcg of iodine per day. After two months of supplementation, patients were found to have restored normal thyroid function, shown by a 62% reduction in the average level of thyroid-stimulating hormone and a 59% increase in free T4 levels (Takeuchi et al., 2011).

Seaweed contains a range of bioactive micronutrients as well, including certain antioxidants that are not found in land plants. Regular seaweed consumption in Asian countries is associated with health benefits. A double-blind, placebo-controlled study on postmenopausal women found that supplementation with kelp (containing 475 mcg of iodine per day), in addition to consuming soy protein, helped reduce the soy-associated increase in the anabolic hormone insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1) by 40% (Teas et al., 2011).

A double-blind, placebo-controlled study also found that consuming a high-alginate kelp powder, standardized to provide 1030 mcg of iodine per day, improved the metabolic profiles of Japanese men (Aoe et al., 2021).

Ingredients

Each serving/drop (0.033 mL) contains:

Iodine (Kelp: species from the order Laminariales*; potassium iodide) **Laminaria setchellii*/*Macrocystis integrifolia*.....800 mcg

Dosage

Recommended adult dose: 1 drop (0.033 mL) daily with meals or as directed by a health care practitioner. Keep out of reach of children.

References

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