

There's a Promising New Alternative to Effective-But-Harsh Retinols



Retinol is widely considered the gold standard for treating a plethora of skin-care issues, such as the appearance of fine lines, sun damage, and acne. But it comes with considerable downsides: Retinol can be harsh, leading to irritation, flaking skin, peeling, and redness. That's why it comes with a suite of warnings about using it only two or three times a week and remaining diligent about wearing sunscreen.

Still, a lot of people's skin can't tolerate it. In particular, anyone with rosacea or eczema. Which is why dermatologists, aestheticians, and skin-care companies have been looking for alternative ingredients that can still yield the same results as retinoids, with several products coming out this year.

And one alternative that's technically a retinoid



Shiffa Rose Maroc Night Elixir

This blend of botanical oils also contains granactive retinoid — which, yes, is a retinoid. But unlike retinol (which has to be converted before it starts working) it goes straight to the target. “Granactive retinoid binds directly with the retinoid receptors in the skin, thus producing similar benefits to retinol, but without the negative side effects,” Wilson says. If you're prone to sensitivity, this is also infused with soothing chamomile to keep redness to a minimum.

\$175 at Nordstrom