EVALUATION OF THE EFFICACY OF A FACIAL CREAM CONTAINING NATURALLY DERIVED MANUKA HONEY EXTRACT AND KOREAN RED GINSENG FOR IMPROVEMENT OF CELL TURNOVER, HYDRATION AND SIGNS OF AGING

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Introduction: Market trends indicate an increasing consumer interest in natural skincare products. These consumers place greater trust in natural ingredients for mildness on skin, but still expect such products to deliver skincare benefits. The objective of the present studies was to assess the efficacy of a facial cream containing 99.6% of natural origin ingredients, including Manuka Honey Extract and Korean Red Ginseng, in its ability to improve cell turnover rate, hydration, TEWL and skin aging attributes. In addition, this study compared an older age group to a younger age group to determine the effectiveness of its improvement as a factor of age.

Method: An 8-week clinical study was conducted on 80 women presented with rough texture, dullness, lack of skin elasticity/resiliency and suppleness, and fine lines. Subjects were divided evenly into 2 groups: Group A (younger group; ages 30-40) with mild severity (scores of 2-2.5 on a 10-point scale) and Group B (older group; ages 45-59) with a mild to moderate severity (scores 3-4). Evaluations were conducted at baseline, immediately after first use, and after 1, 4 and 8 weeks of twice daily use by subjects in Group B only. Efficacy evaluations comprised expert grading, self-assessment questionnaires, photographs, cell turnover rate, hydration and TEWL measurements.

Results: Statistically significant improvements were observed in all assessed skin attributes by Week 8 for Group B in both cells when compared to baseline. When comparing Group A at baseline to Group B after 8 weeks of product use the younger group statistically outperformed the older group for skin softness and showed parity for radiance and smoothness. Statistical significance of an increased cell turnover rate was determined when compared to untreated. In addition, a statistical significant improvement was found in hydration and TEWL. The product was well perceived by subjects.