DERMASCOPE

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Salicylic accomplishes the same goals in skin care as alpha hydroxy acids, such as lactic acid and glycolic acid, but is used in a weaker concentration. Applied to the skin, it breaks down fatty compounds, such as the oily sebum that can clog pores; taken inside the body, salicylic acid (the main ingredient in aspirin) relieves pain and improves circulation. One of the most important benefits of this ingredient is that it is significantly less irritating than other products.

Salicylic acid acts as a keratolytic, which loosens keratin, therefore allowing thickened, scaly plaques of skin to shed more easily. Using an exfoliant that contains salicylic acid not only sloughs off dead skin like a traditional face scrub, but also contains mild acids that will decrease inflammation and prevent further breakouts.

As a mode of chemical exfoliation, salicylic acid increases cell turnover, refreshes the skin, helps kill germs and bacteria, and tightens pores. It is most useful in oily skin and, like aspirin, it can relieve inflammation and redness.

The word salicylic comes from the Latin *salix*, meaning a plant or a tree of the willow family – it was first made from a complex carbohydrate found in willow bark. The ingredient is not directly found in the bark; the powdered bark has to be treated with oxidants and filtered to make the acid.

It is a monohydroxybenzoic acid, a type of phenolic acid, and a beta hydroxy acid with the formula $C_7H_6O_3$.

Monohydroxybenzoic means any hydroxybenzoic acid having a single phenolic hydroxy substituent on the benzene ring. Monohydroxybenzoic acid may refer to any of three isomeric phenolic acids:

- Salicylic acid (2-hydroxybenzoic acid, o-hydroxybenzoic acid)
- 3-Hydroxybenzoic acid (m-hydroxybenzoic acid)
- 4-Hydroxybenzoic acid (p-hydroxybenzoic acid)

Phenolic acids or phenolcarboxylic acids are types of aromatic acid compound. Phenolic acids can be found in many plant species. Their content in dried fruits can be high.

SALICYLIC ACID IN PRODUCTS

Over-the-counter treatment products with 0.5 percent to two percent salicylic acid are safe to use in the treatment room, as well as at home. The problem with most acne products that list salicylic acid as their active ingredient is that they do not contain the correct concentration of salicylic acid at the right pH. For facial products, two percent salicylic acid is used with 98 percent of product being a neutral carrier agent. Up to three percent salicylic acid can be used on other body parts and a 10 percent to 30 percent spot treatment will dissolve warts.

Compared to alpha hydroxy acids in acne care products, which can be up to 30 percent, the same treatment is safely

Strawberries and Cream Micro Peel
ABI Dermaceuticals
866-999-6954
abiskincare.com

Acne Clarifying Treatment
Apothederm
877-496-0038
apothederm.com

Oil & Acne Control Facial Foaming Cleanser
Bio France Lab
323-846-5933
biofrancelab.com

PRESCRIBEDsolutions Starting Up/Face
Biopelle
866-424-6735
biopelle.com

MicroReveal
CelleClé Skincare
888-731-2525
cellecleskincare.com