



Herb-based cream for sun-damaged skin

A novel topical cream that uses photoactivation of herb extracts to treat skin lesions

An innovative topical photodynamic therapy cream (Imimate) has been formulated with chlorophyll catabolites from *Clinacanthus nutans*, a Southeast Asian medicinal herb. These natural compounds act as photosensitizers that produce reactive oxygen molecules when exposed to light, allowing them to selectively target precancerous and cancerous skin cells.

By using a plant-derived formulation, instead of synthetic drugs, the cream delivers comparable efficacy without harsh side effects – positioning it as a safe, natural and accessible option for treating precancerous skin conditions such as actinic keratosis (or solar keratoses). As a non-toxic, non-invasive treatment that reduces skin scaliness, thickness and redness, this innovation is a gentle yet highly effective therapy.

Key health benefits include improved tolerability, better adherence to treatment plans, and reduced risk of progression to squamous cell carcinoma – all of which may lower the health care burden. The cream's botanical origin and scalable production also present potential economic advantages.

Scientific evidence supports this innovation. Clinical trials have confirmed the cream's safety, tolerability and non-phototoxicity, and have demonstrated significant clinical improvements in lesion scaliness, thickness and redness. In addition, preclinical studies show strong antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, as well as an ability to inhibit or reduce the proliferation of cells.

Overall, this innovation brings together natural ingredients and contemporary photodynamic principles to offer patients a safe, evidence-based and effective treatment option, specifically for actinic keratosis.



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Disclaimer: WHO played no role in the development of this innovation.