A SUPERIOR SOLUTION FOR HYPERPIGMENTATION:
SPLIT-FACE STUDY RESULTS WITH MARINI LUMINATE FACE LOTION

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—Joel Schlessinger, MD

While many individuals think of “wrinkling” as the hallmark of skin aging, lentigines, mottled hyperpigmentation, and loss of translucency are also well documented consequences of photoaging.\(^1\) Research has indicated that color saturation and lightness are primary factors that individuals consider when assessing the age of females in standardized photographs.\(^2\) Similar findings apply to men, for whom skin color irregularity has been shown to affect perceptions of age, health and attractiveness.\(^3\) In other studies where skin wrinkling is seen as a more significant cue to age, uneven skin color nonetheless has a strong effect on the perception of female facial health.\(^4\)

In light of increasing concern about the long-term safety of prescription hydroquinone, consumers and clinicians are increasingly interested in newer ingredients that target pigmentation. New to the market, Luminate Face Lotion from Jan Marini Skin Research has been shown to perform as well or better than a prescription-only hydroquinone-based product for improvement of mild to moderate hyperpigmentation with high rates of patient satisfaction.

**SPLIT-FACE COMPARATIVE STUDY RESULTS**

The efficacy of Luminate Face Lotion was demonstrated in a recently published randomized, double-blinded, split-face study.\(^5\) According to study investigator Joel Schlessinger, MD, the study was notable for a few reasons. “This study put 4% hydroquinone, an icon for skin pigmentation correction, against an over-the-counter product,” he notes. “The results were spectacular, showing results that were even better for the Jan Marini product than the Obagi\(^\text{®}\) product.”

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With Joel Schlessinger, MD
Skin Specialists, PC, Omaha, NE

Baseline (left) and 3 months (right) after use of Luminate Face Lotion on one side, hydroquinone (Obagi\(^\text{®}\) Blender\(^\text{®}\)) on the opposite.
While some skin care lines emphasize research done on individual ingredients in pre-clinical or small *in vitro* uncontrolled trials, this study documents the *in vivo* benefits of the finished formulation—Marini Luminate Face Lotion—tested against a comparator, Dr. Schlessinger notes.

“The audacity and significance of this trial should not be underestimated,” he stresses. “Many studies pit over-the-counter products against each other but this study went against the Gold Standard. And won!”

Marini Luminate Lotion contains several ingredients intended to improve pigmentation. Nonapeptide-1 is a Melanocyte Stimulating Hormone (MSH) antagonist that inhibits melatonin production upstream from classic tyrosinase inhibitors. Tetrahydrodiferuloylmethane is a colorless derivative of curcumin that is a potent tyrosinase inhibitor and antioxidant with anti-inflammatory properties. It has been shown to protect against UVB-induced inflammation and damage when applied topically. The product also contains known tyrosinase inhibiting ingredients—Alpha-Arbutin, Hexylresorcinol, and Dipotassium Glycyrrhizate. Finally, Retinol is included in either a 0.3% or 0.75% form. In addition to being a well-known tyrosinase transcription inhibitor, retinoids are also shown to decrease the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles and increase epidermal proliferation leading to epidermal thickening.

This scientifically based formulation was tested against a hydroquinone 4%-based prescription formulation in a three-month randomized, double-blind, split-face study. The study showed a statistically significant improvement in hyperpigmentation on both sides of the face, as assessed by the physician evaluator, with a slight superior (though not statistically significant) improvement in on the Luminate Lotion side. (Figure 1) Additionally, while there was statistically significant improvement in fine lines and wrinkles for both products at Weeks 8 and 12, only Luminate Lotion showed a significant improvement in lines and wrinkles at Week 4.

“The Jan Marini product not only matched the Obagi product in this head-to-head trial, but showed results at 4 weeks versus 8 weeks for the comparator,” Dr. Schlessinger observes. “The ability to show results quickly is a huge asset.”

While subject satisfaction scores for the hydroquinone product were neutral throughout the course of the study, scores for Luminate Lotion progressed from neutral to satisfied. More than half of study participants stated that they preferred Luminate Face Lotion over the comparator, and 80 percent of subjects indicated they would continue to use the product, compared to only 45 percent for the comparator. (Figure 2)

**A RECOMMENDATION FROM SCIENCE**

With its effects on pigmentation, as well as fine lines and wrinkles, Marini Luminate Lotion may be an appropriate option for many patients in the dermatologist’s office.

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6. Uniflex. “Melanostatine 5 Focusing on whitening” datasheet