How to substantiate anti-ageing claims: An in vivo method for anti-oxidant effects

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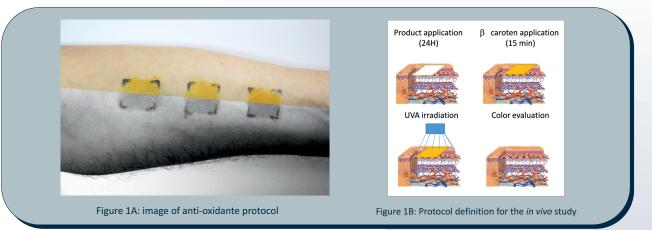


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INTRODUCTION

Skin Aging is a complex biologic process due to genetic background influence and environmental factors. UV radiation is one of the major factors that induce photo damage in the skin due to the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS). In skin, these ROS are responsible for inducing skin ageing effects, like skin thickness, dryness, hyperpigmentation and wrinkles.

The present work shows an in vivo non-invasive method that can be able to demonstrate anti-oxidant effects on the human skin and complement the analysis of the skin's structural and photo-induced modifications detected by Confocal Microscopy, High Resolution and 3D frinje projection Images.



METHODOLOGY

The anti-oxidant method uses the β -carotene that is a Yellow chromophore molecule and when is oxidized by UV radiation it loses its chromophore capability and color. This discoloration can be monitored by colorimetry (b* parameter).

The structural changes were assessed using three different methods: a Reflectance Confocal Microscopy (RCM) was performed in order to see structural changes related to aging process, at the same time a standard digital face photography (VISIA, Canfield Scientific) and an image by frinje projection (AEVA-HE, Eotech) were also performed in order to obtain data concerning Visible, Brown (hyperpigmentation), U.V. (photodamaged induced spots) and skin topography.

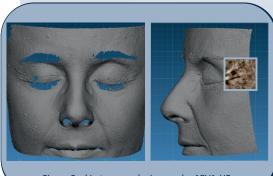


Figure 2: skin topography images by AEVA-HE

CONCLUSION

This techniques allows to measure oxidative stress on skin, on an in vivo non-invasive way, and therefore it can be useful on the assessment of skin ageing, particularly on the evaluation of the effectiveness against photoaging effects such as melanin distribution, vascular changes and structural changes on fibers network.

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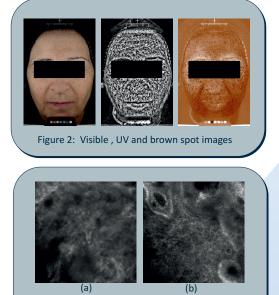


Figure 3: confocal structural images of fiber network (a) and dermal papillae (b)

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