

Understanding Octocrylene

Octocrylene is an anhydrous composition found in cosmetics and sunscreen that is used as a UV screen to skin. An organic compound, it can soak into the epidermis acting as a photosensitizer, processing and transferring light that is being absorbed, and redirecting evenly across your skin. This compound is weak when used alone, but when used in conjunction with other sun protecting lotions, Octocrylene is stable, both protecting and augmenting various other UVA and UVB absorbers. Oil soluble and water resistant, this compound does not falter in sunlight and protects other UV blocking agents from UV-induced failure.

Patented in 1999 to Schering-Plough Health Care Products, Octocrylene's present compositions can be comprised of one or more fatty acid esters. Without being constrained by any particular theory, Octocrylene is the incorporation of a fatty acid ester other than octyldodecyl neopentanoate, which helps to solvate the compound, function as an emollient, and enhance octocrylene's skin protection. The invention of Octocrylene also refers to the methods of blocking or even preventing UV light-induced skin damage by using an effective amount of the compound on skin in need of such blocking agents or protection.

Octocrylene, which is composed of 2-ethylhexyl 2-cyano-3, 3- diphenylacrylate, is part of the cinnamate group of chemicals, absorbing light with wavelengths from 250nm to 360nm. The one or more fatty acid esters used is said to be a mixture of benzyl myristate, benzyl laurate and benzyl palmitate. The present composition of Octocrylene can be comprised of one or more UV light absorbing compounds, which is why it is necessary to be a compound aid rather than a sunscreen in and of itself. In some studies, it has been found to promote a generation of potentially free radicals, which is an atom or molecule, such as melanin, that is highly reactive but not chemically reactive, being closely associated with oxidative damage. Octocrylene has been evaluated by the FDA and has been approved for use under 10% in sunscreen and cosmetic products.

There are side effects of Octocrylene, though, which you should be aware of before purchasing this product for daily use. In studies conducted between 2003-2006, Octocrylene appears to be a strong allergen which may cause contact dermatitis in children and photo-allergic contact dermatitis in adults with a history of photo allergy from ketoprofen. Patients with photo allergy from ketoprofen or any type of sensitivity to chemical compounds or light should consult a physician prior to use. He or she will be able to inform you of sunscreen products not containing octocrylene, benzophenone-3, or fragrances. If you have already began using these products and are currently experiencing any side effects, discontinue use immediately and check with your doctor.

Whether you are heading out for a day of fun in the sun or are simply looking for a daily beauty product that will protect your skin from the harmful effects of UV rays, Octocrylene can be a useful tool in saving your skin from damaging effects. <CLIENT SPECIFIC MATERIAL DELETED>