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## Topical application of *Calendula officinalis*: A carotenoid rich skin protecting formulation

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Cosmetics are used extensively throughout the world for maintaining and improving appearance of face and other parts of the body. Numerous chemicals, toxins and microorganisms present in the atmosphere cause damage to skin. Cosmetics, not alone but with association of an active constituent are required to prevent the damage and aging of skin. Herbal cosmetics are the appropriate solution to the current problem. The use of bioactive phytochemicals in variety of formulations serve as cosmetics for skin care and the active herbal constituent influences the biological function of skin and provides nutrients necessary for healthy skin. Using natural extracts in skin protection especially for topical application indicates that they decrease skin aging. Lutol® (lutein) is a plant pigment with a powerful anti-oxidant activity belonging to xanthopyll family of carotenoids. The present work is aimed to develop an anti-aging skin protecting formulation using novel, herbal isolate Lutol® obtained from flower of plant *Calendula officinalis* and evaluate the formulation for various quality control parameters. The cream was formulated using excipients like stiffening agents, emulsifying agents, humectants, emollients (DUB SSIC), preservatives (Euxyl K 510) along with Lutol®. Quality assessment of cream was carried out by studying the appearance, texture, odour, pH, viscosity, spreadability and antioxidant activity. Also, the formulation was evaluated in healthy human volunteers for skin irritation. The formulation satisfied desired physicochemical properties and found to be non-irritant. It was also stable over a period of 2 months. Thus, a skin protective cream was successfully formulated proving its cosmeceutical potential.

### Biography

N R Sneha Keerthi is working as a Research Associate under the guidance of Professor Dr Rajarajeshwari N at Visveswarapura Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences. The major research project in her supervision is the ICMR, Ad-hok 21/12/17/09HSR dated 24/06/2010, entitled "Exploration of unexplored medicinal plants from Western Ghat region of Ramghat for their cytotoxic principal and documentation of tribal knowledge from the tribal community located at the base of Ramghat".

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