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Formulating moisturizing creams for skin of color

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Background: In people with Fitzpatrick type IV to VI skin, dry skin can be associated with a grayish-whitish coloring, a reduction in skin shininess and even flaking in more severe cases. This condition is usually referred to as “ashy” skin. This is considered a cosmetic problem; however, it can be distressing affecting patients’ quality of life and in severe cases it can lead to further problems. There is not a wide variety of moisturizers on the market specifically designed for skin of color, which skin type usually desires a thicker, creamier moisturizer to combat dry skin symptoms.

Aims: The main goals of this study were to design moisturizing creams for skin of color and study how formulation technology affects product quality and stability.

Methods: First, a detailed review of marketed products was performed to identify key moisturizing ingredients for skin of color. After identifying the main moisturizing ingredients, other necessary ingredients were selected to formulate moisturizing creams.

Results: Multiple batches of creams were formulated with varying the processing parameters (including mixing speed, speed of adding the water phase, using liquid vs. solid shea butter, use of water bath, and amount of oil/aqueous phase included) and the creams were tested for aesthetics, viscosity, droplet size distribution and physical stability.

Conclusions: This study showed that processing parameters and technology significantly affects the physicochemical characteristics and physical stability of moisturizing creams.

Biography

Gabriella Baki is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toledo College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. She serves as the Program Director and main Instructor in the BSPS Cosmetic Science and Formulation Design. She is a Pharmacist, graduated in 2008 from the University of Szeged, Hungary and also did PhD from the same university. Her research area focuses on cosmetics and personal care products as well as topical pharmaceutical products with the ultimate goals of enhancing consumer experience, patient adherence as well as product appeal and performance. She has made several technical presentations and over a dozen poster presentations. She has written 24 publications, has contributed to book chapters and had her first book, *Introduction to Cosmetic Formulation and Technology*, published by John Wiley and Sons last year.

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