

FGF2-STAB[®] Polypeptide

Stabilized Fibroblast Growth Factor 2



Anti-aging ingredient with superior stability when compared to the native form of FGF2 protein:

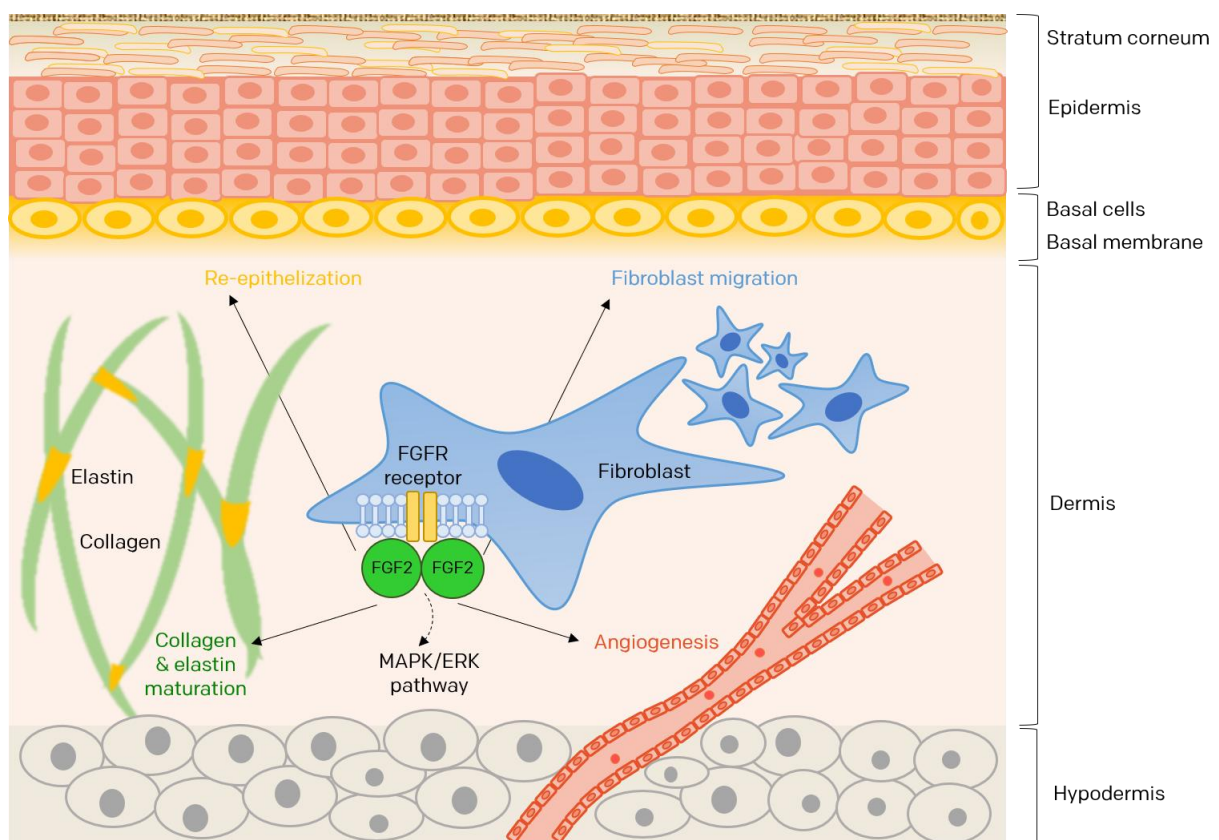
- ✓ Retains skin hydration
- ✓ Reduces wrinkles
- ✓ Enables skin softening
- ✓ Normalizes skin keratinization



Suitable for aging skin, dehydrated skin, skin with wrinkles and uneven textured skin.

Fibroblast growth factor 2 (FGF2)

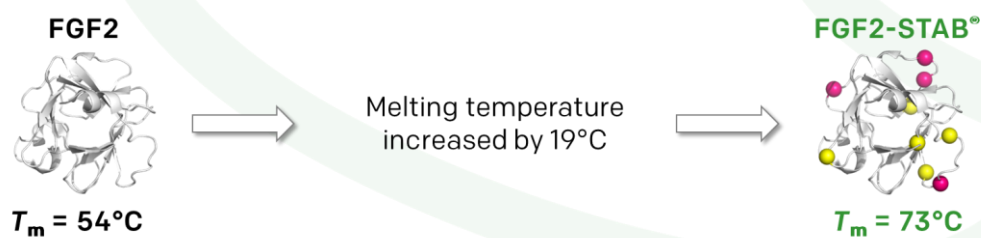
Fibroblast Growth Factor 2 (FGF2) is one of the most versatile human growth factors and an important signalling molecule for many cellular processes. It is involved in **the regulation of proliferation, differentiation, and migration** of various cell types. In addition to its essential role during embryogenesis and tissue development, FGF2 is **involved in the healing processes of damaged tissues** [1]. Several preclinical [2-4] and clinical [5-7] studies have shown that FGF2 has a **positive effect on the healing of poorly healing (chronic) wounds**, such as diabetic foot syndrome, pressure ulcers, burns, or postoperative wounds. These studies specifically demonstrated that FGF2 promotes fibroblast migration, collagen maturation, supports the formation of new blood vessels (angiogenesis), and tissue re-epithelialization. Further studies have shown that FGF2 **increases skin elasticity, reduces wrinkle depth, enhances skin hydration, reduces pigmentation levels, and promotes hair growth by inducing the anagen phase of hair follicles** [8-10].



At the molecular level, FGF2 functions as a signalling molecule by binding to the fibroblast receptor (FGFR). Signal transduction occurs on the outer surface of the cell, where a complex is formed **consisting of two FGF2 molecules, two FGFR receptors, and one heparan sulphate molecule (HSPG)** acting as a cofactor for FGF2 [11]. As a result, structural changes in FGFR receptors occur, accompanied by the phosphorylation of their kinase domains and subsequent signal transduction to downstream pathways such as the RAS-MAPK cascade (cell growth and differentiation), the PI3K-AKT pathway (cell cycle regulation), the PLC γ pathway (cell proliferation, migration, and apoptosis), the Wnt- β -catenin pathway (angiogenesis), and the STAT pathway (embryogenesis, cell division) [12].

FGF2-STAB[®]

Fibroblast growth factors, including wild-type FGF2, are inherently unstable, which significantly limits their use in industry, medicine, and cosmetics. However, Enantis has developed a **stabilized form of FGF2 called FGF2-STAB[®], which is more than 50 times more stable than FGF2**. Through protein engineering methods, 9 amino acids of the FGF2 protein chain have been substituted, resulting in a 20°C increase in the protein's melting temperature. The higher melting temperature of **FGF2-STAB[®] extends the stability to more than 24 months at room temperature**, while the concentration of native FGF2 reduces to 30 % in two weeks) [13,14]. The stabilization of FGF2-STAB[®] is achieved directly within the protein structure without the use of additional stabilizing agents while preserving the same biological activity. FGF2-STAB[®] brings economic benefits to cosmetics manufacturers due to significantly slower degradation during production, storage, transportation, and after package opening. The higher stability of FGF2-STAB[®] also allows the preparation of final cosmetic formulations with a reduced amount of stabilizing agents, reducing the risk of undesired (allergic) reactions.



Application

Due to the worldwide aging population, there is an increasing interest in regenerative cosmetics. The use of FGF2-STAB® in skincare involves rejuvenating epidermal cells and fibroblast cells, which are responsible for the production of collagen, elastin, and hyaluronic acid. With age, the synthesis of collagen, elastin, and hyaluronic acid slows down and eventually comes to a halt [15]. Instead of undergoing procedures involving the use of botulinum toxin or hyaluronic acid injections, wrinkle minimization and prevention can be achieved through the application of FGF2-STAB®. Maintaining labile FGF2 in cosmetic products active is nearly impossible, and that is why the highly stable growth factor in the form of FGF2-STAB® represents a revolutionary cosmetic ingredient.

FGF2-STAB® specification

INCI	AQUA SODIUM CHLORIDE DIPOTASSIUM PHOSPHATE MONOPOTASSIUM PHOSPHATE SH-POLYPEPTIDE-1
CAS NUMBER	106096-93-9
SOURCE	Bacteria <i>Escherichia coli</i> BL21 (DE3)
FERMENTATION MEDIA	Glycerol, (NH ₄) ₂ HPO ₄ , KH ₂ PO ₄ , citric acid, MgSO ₄ ·7H ₂ O, Fe(III) citrate, Na ₂ MoO ₄ ·2H ₂ O, CoCl ₂ ·6H ₂ O, MnCl ₂ ·4H ₂ O, CuCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O, H ₃ BO ₃ , Zn(CH ₃ COOH) ₂ ·2H ₂ O
APPEARANCE	Colourless aqueous solution
COMPOSITION	250 mM NaCl, 16.4 mM K ₂ HPO ₄ , 3.6 mM KH ₂ PO ₄ , pH 7.5
PURITY	>95% by SDS PAGE (reduced conditions)
MOLECULAR WEIGHT	19.5 kDa
NUMBER OF AMINO ACIDS	175
ISOELECTRIC POINT	9.54
PH OF FGF2-STAB	7.5
PH FOR FORMULATIONS	5.5–7.5 (for the final cosmetic formulation)
ENDOTOXINS	Endotoxin levels <0.1 ng/μg protein (<1 EU/μg) by LAL test
BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY	ED ₅₀ <1.1 ng/ml, cell proliferation assay using NIH/3T3 cells
SOLUBILITY	Water soluble

Composition of FGF2-STAB®

COMPONENT	INCI	ORIGIN	%
1 mg/mL FGF2-STAB®	SH-POLYPEPTIDE-1	Fermentation	0.10
Water	AQUA	Mineral	98.10
250 mM NaCl	SODIUM CHLORIDE	Mineral	1.46
16.4 mM K ₂ HPO ₄	DIPOTASSIUM PHOSPHATE	Mineral	0.29
3.6 mM KH ₂ PO ₄	MONOPOTASSIUM PHOSPHATE	Mineral	0.05
Total			100

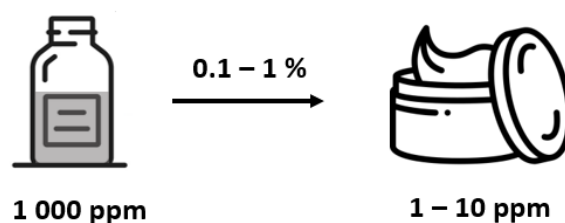
FGF2-STAB® production pipeline

FGF2-STAB® is a recombinant protein produced in bacterial *E. coli* strain – BL21 (DE3) by microbial fermentation in an animal-free, non-GMO Luria Bertani media. All genetic material from the bacteria is removed upon purification process and FGF2-STAB® comes as an animal-free **liquid solution** or alternatively as a lyophilized powder¹. Salts in the final solution have mineral origin from mines (NaCl) or mineral-derived origin (K₂HPO₄ and KH₂PO₄).



FGF2-STAB® dosing and recommended concentration

Use 0.1–1 % of FGF2-STAB® in the final cosmetic product to achieve 1–10 ppm concentration.



¹ Available for extra charge.

FGF2-STAB® formulation and recommended conditions

FGF2-STAB® can be added to the **aqueous phase** of the final cosmetic formulation, which may then be heated to a maximum of **60 °C** for up to **30 minutes**. Alternatively, FGF2-STAB® may be added during the **final step** before homogenization by slowly stirring at 35 °C.

FGF2-STAB® shelf-life

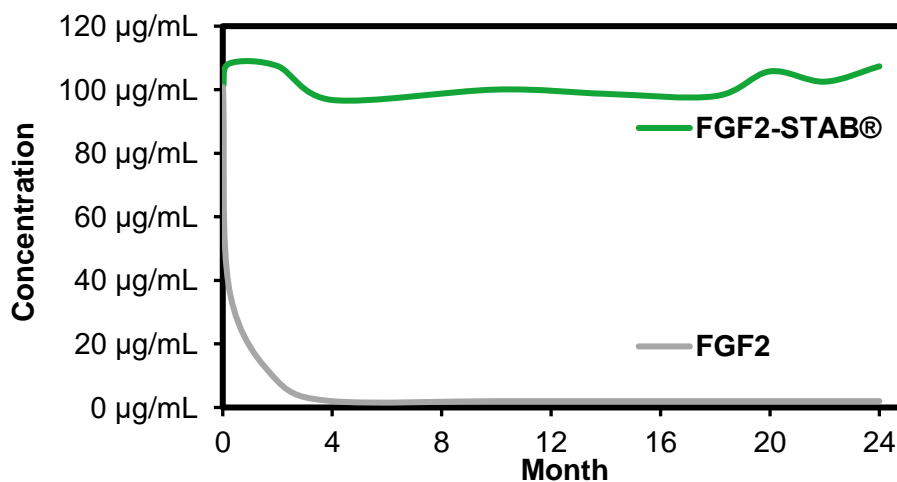
Storage/Stability: Room temperature to 4 °C for 2 years.

FGF2-STAB® vs FGF2 comparison in the aqueous solution

	FGF2	FGF2-STAB®	FGF2-STAB® BENEFITS
ACTIVITY AT 37 °C	<10 hours	>20 days	More stable during biological processes
STABILITY AT 25 °C	<1 month	2 years	Stable for a longer period (transport and storage)
ACTIVITY (ED₅₀)	5.0 ng/mL	1.1 ng/mL	Lower concentration required (reduced costs)
MELTING TEMPERATURE	54 °C	73 °C	Stable at higher temperature (heating during production)

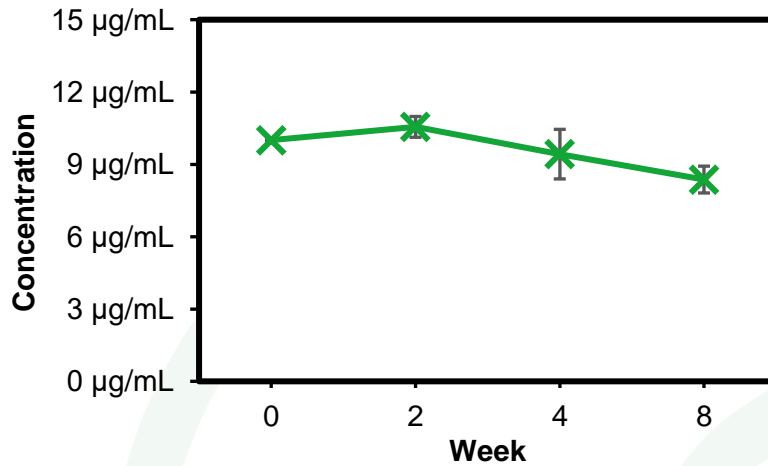
FGF2-STAB® long-term stability in aqueous solution at 25 °C

Concentration of native FGF2 drops to less than 50 % in 1 week at room temperature, limiting its utilisation in cosmetics industry. FGF2-STAB® is stable for at least 2 years (ongoing study). Concentration was detected by ELISA using a specific antibody recognizing FGF2-STAB®.



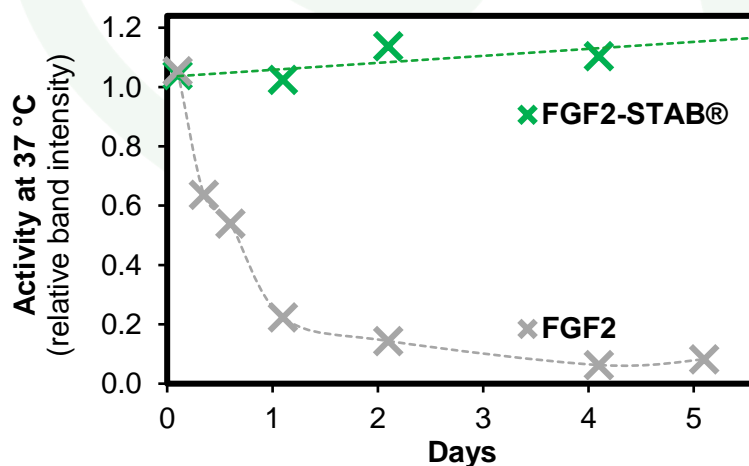
FGF2-STAB[®] stability in aqueous solution at 40 °C

FGF2-STAB[®] is stable for at least 8 weeks at 40 °C. Concentration was detected by ELISA using a specific antibody recognizing FGF2-STAB[®].



Retained biological activity of FGF2-STAB[®] in solution at 37 °C

The resistance of FGF2-STAB[®] to higher temperatures results in a **significantly longer half-life** compared to unstable FGF2. While the biological activity of native FGF2 decreases over time with thermal preincubation, even after just a few hours, the stabilized variant **FGF2-STAB[®] maintains complete biological activity during the 20-day time-course** (the later time points are not showed). Experimental data were obtained by western blotting of CCTL14 embryonic stem cell lysates treated with 10 ng/ml FGF2 or FGF2-STAB[®], quantifying phosphorylated ERK-1/2 as a downstream target of FGF2 signalling [13,14].



Heavy metals content in FGF2-STAB®

FGF2-STAB® Cosmetics ingredient complies with the EU Cosmetics Regulation (EC No 1223/2009) and **does not exceed** the specified heavy metals limits.

The presence of heavy metals in FGF2-STAB® Cosmetics was determined by ICP/MS in the *Laboratory of atomic spectrochemistry, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic*.

ELEMENT	FGF2-STAB®	LIMIT*
Lead (Pb)	0.002212 ppm	2 ppm
Cadmium (Cd)	0.000143 ppm	0.1 ppm
Nickel (Ni)	0.025220 ppm	10 ppm
Arsenic (As)	0.035480 ppm	0.5 ppm
Mercury (Hg)	Not detected	0.1 ppm
Antimony (Sb)	Not detected	0.5 ppm
Chromium (Cr)	Not detected	1 ppm

* Limits for final cosmetic products

ISO 16128 Natural origin index calculation for FGF2-STAB®

Based on the ISO 16128-1:2016 (Definitions for ingredients) and ISO 16128-2:2017 (Criteria for ingredients and products), FGF2-STAB® is **composed of natural origin components** and FGF2-STAB® has **Natural Origin Index (NOI) = 1** and therefore it is compliant with ISO 16128.

COMPONENT	ORIGIN	MOLECULAR WEIGHT	WEIGHT PER 1 L
1 mg/mL FGF2-STAB®	Fermentation	19497.20 g/mol	1 g
250 mM NaCl	Mineral	58.44 g/mol	14.61 g
16.4 mM K ₂ HPO ₄	Mineral	174.18 g/mol	2.855 g
3.6 mM KH ₂ PO ₄	Mineral	136.09 g/mol	0.490 g
Total			18.955 g

In vivo EFFICACY RESULTS IN CREAM

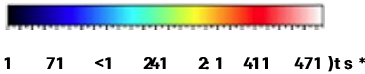
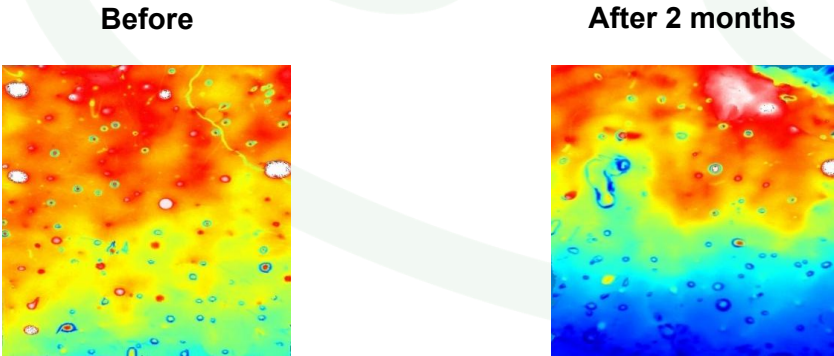
Improved skin aesthetics after FGF2-STAB® cream application

Improved skin aesthetics after FGF2-STAB® in cream application. The application of FGF2-STAB® in a cream formulation for a period of 2 months resulted in a visible reduction of wrinkles and a decrease in skin roughness. Images capture the changes in a representative individual.



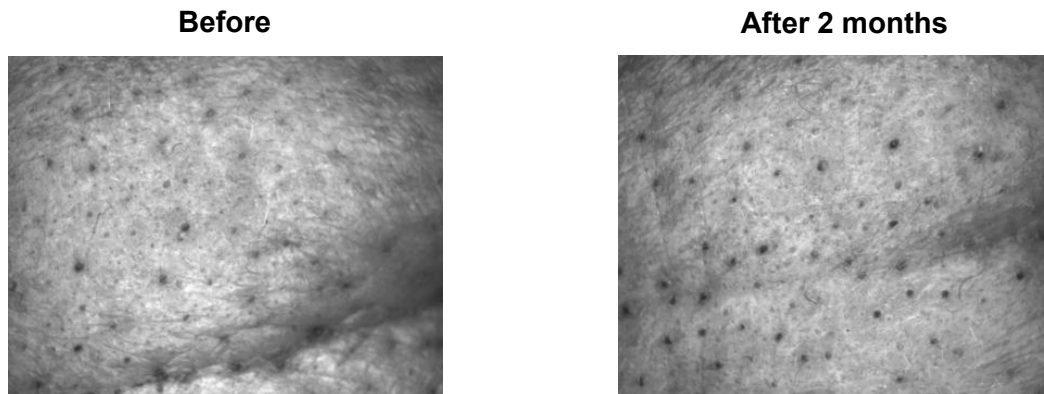
Smoothing of wrinkles after FGF2-STAB® cream application

The use of FGF2-STAB® cream resulted in the smoothing of the skin texture, as captured the skin silicon replica by the Visiometer device. The replica reproduces the skin as a negative. Deeper areas in the skin have higher signal as the silicone is thicker in that place (red colour). The improvement in skin surface directly correlates with the reduction of wrinkles (blue colour). Images capture the changes in a representative individual.



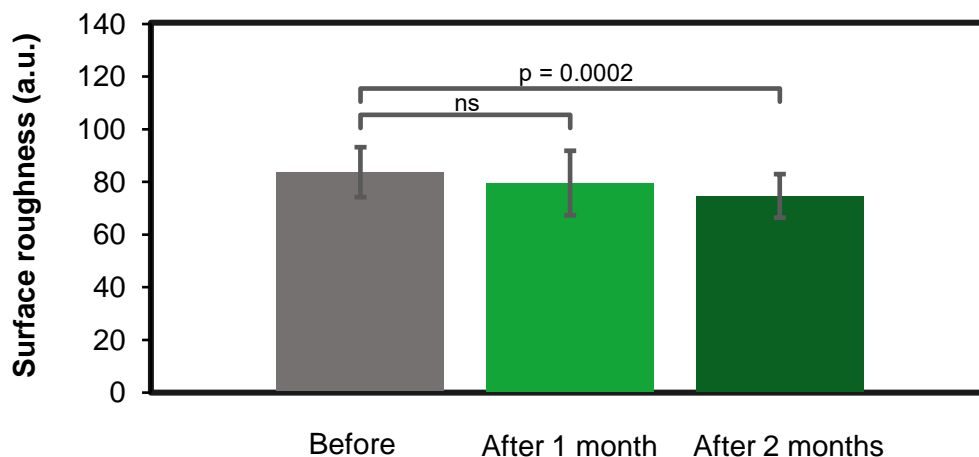
Skin relief normalization after FGF2-STAB[®] cream application

FGF2-STAB[®] cream had positive effect on skin structure (relief) – scaliness, roughness, wrinkle, and smoothness of skin. Surface evaluation of living cells was monitored by Visioscan (LED UV-A light video camera) connected to the Visiometer device. Images capture the changes in a representative individual.



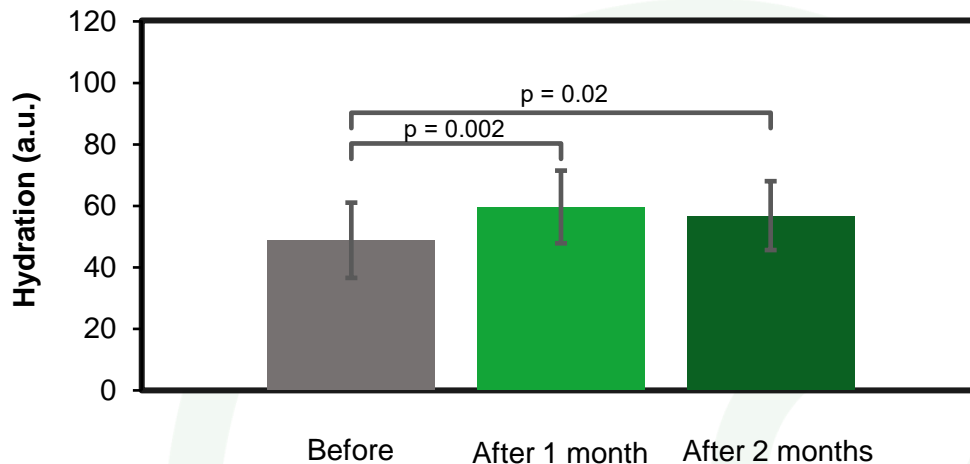
Lower skin roughness after FGF2-STAB[®] cream application

Lower skin roughness after FGF2-STAB[®] cream application. FGF2-STAB[®] in the cream formulation decreased the average roughness parameter R3 (Rz) in over 50% of the subjects. Change in 14% after 1 month (no significant) and in 11% after 2 months compared to the measurement before. The assessment of skin roughness was based on the measurement of light transmission of thin blue dyed silicone replica by Visiometer device.



Increased skin hydration after FGF2-STAB[®] cream application

FGF2-STAB[®] in the cream formulation increased the hydration of the stratum corneum in over 50% of the individuals tested. Change in 33% after 1 month and in 27% after 2 months compared to the measurement before. The assessment of hydration was based on the measurement of dielectric capacitance of the outer layers of the skin (corneometry).



Design of *in vivo* evaluation

The *in vivo* evaluation was conducted by Syncare Plus on 19 volunteers. To demonstrate the effect of FGF2-STAB[®], the simplest cream formulation without components that could potentially overshadow the measured parameters was used. The composition of the cream for *in vivo* testing included Aqua, Oenothera Biennis Oil, Glycine Soya, Cetyl Alcohol, Methyl Glucose Sesquistearate, FGF2-STAB[®], Sodium Hyaluronate, Urea, Glycerin, Pentylene Glycol, Butyrospermum parkii butter, Ethylhexylglycerin, Sesamum Indicum seed oil, Citrus Aurantium dulcis oil, Cymbopogon Citratus Leaf oil, Lavandula Angustifolia flower oil, Rosmarinus Officinalis Leaf Extract, Alcohol denat., Phenoxyethanol, Limonene, Geraniol, Linalol. The study was performed from December 15, 2022, to February 24, 2023, under the supervision of the Syncare Plus Center for Aesthetic Dermatology, meeting the requirements of Article 20 of Regulation 1223/2009/EC. The trial was methodically conducted in accordance with ČSN EN ISO 14155 - Clinical investigation of medical devices for human subjects, with the approval of the Ethics Committee of Syncare Plus s.r.o.

In vivo EFFICACY RESULTS IN SERUM

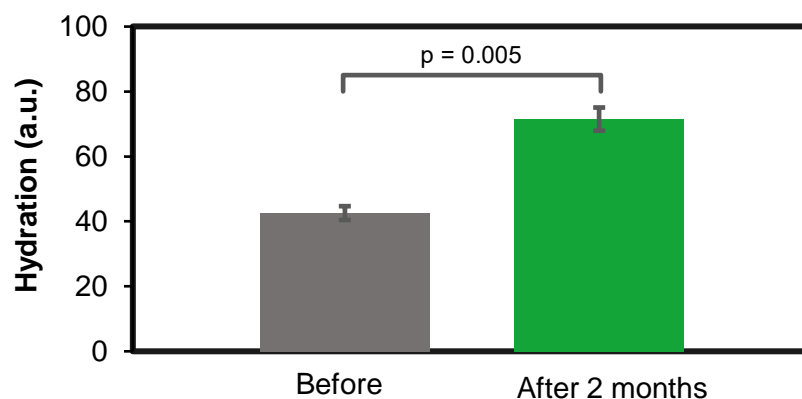
Improved skin aesthetics after FGF2-STAB[®] serum application

Improved skin aesthetics after FGF2-STAB[®] serum application. FGF2 STAB[®] serum was applied for 2 months resulted in a visible reduction of wrinkles Images capture the changes in a representative individual.



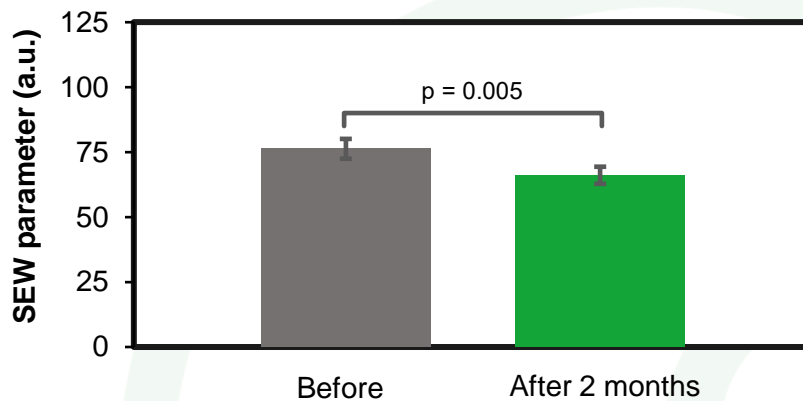
Increased skin hydration after FGF2-STAB[®] serum application

Increased skin hydration after FGF2-STAB[®] serum application. FGF2-STAB[®] in the serum formulation increased the hydration of the stratum corneum). The assessment of hydration was based on the measurement of dielectric capacitance of the outer layers of the skin (corneometry). This method eliminates the disadvantages of assessing hydration based on conductivity/resistance but is significantly less sensitive to sweating factors. Change in 67% compared to the measurement before.



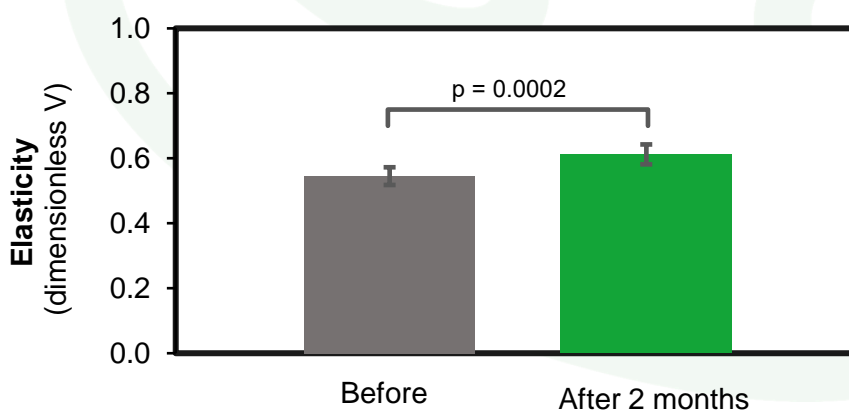
Smoothing of wrinkles after FGF2-STAB[®] serum application

Smoothing of wrinkles after FGF2-STAB[®] serum application. FGF2-STAB[®] serum had positive effect on smoothing of the skin, results in a reduction in the visibility of wrinkles. Surface evaluation of living cells was monitored by the Visioscan (LED UV-A light video camera) connected to the Visiometer device. SEW parameter value representing wrinkles was reduced. Change in 11% compared to the measurement before.



Increased skin elasticity after FGF2-STAB[®] serum application

Increased skin elasticity after FGF2-STAB[®] serum application. The use of FGF2-STAB[®] cream resulted in increased skin elasticity. The assessment of skin elasticity parameter was based on the resistance of the skin to the negative pressure (firmness) created by the device and its ability to return into its original position (elasticity). Change in 12% compared to the measurement before.

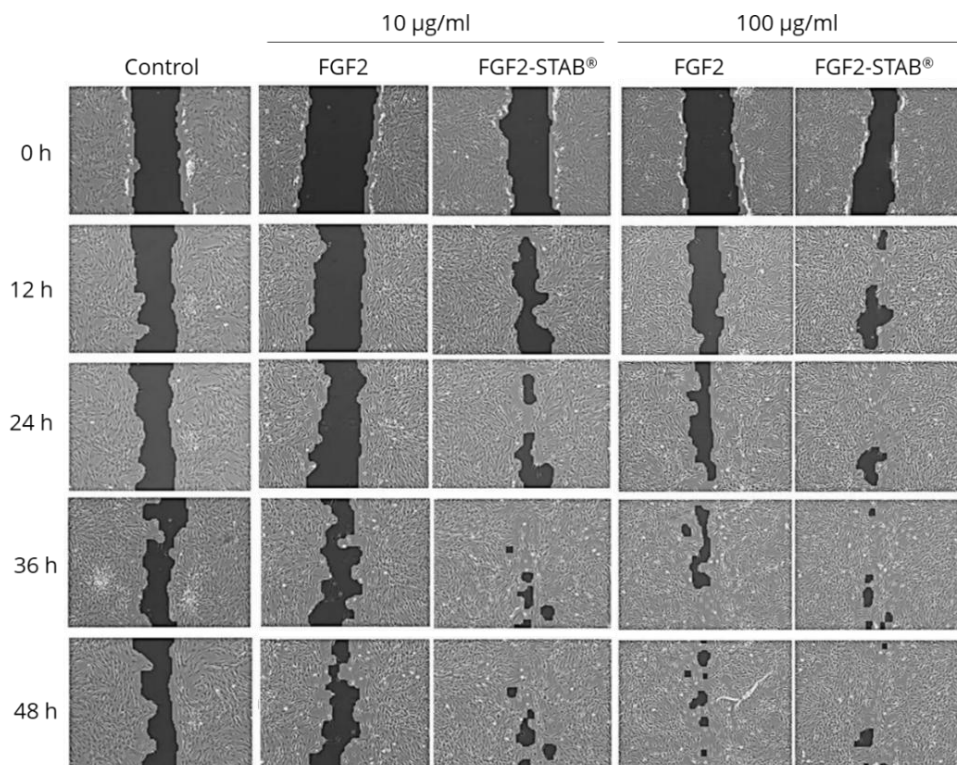


The *in vivo* evaluation was conducted by Dr Koziej Sp. on 10 volunteers. To demonstrate the effect of FGF2-STAB[®], the simplest serum formulation without components that could potentially overshadow the measured parameters was used.

In vitro EFFICACY RESULTS

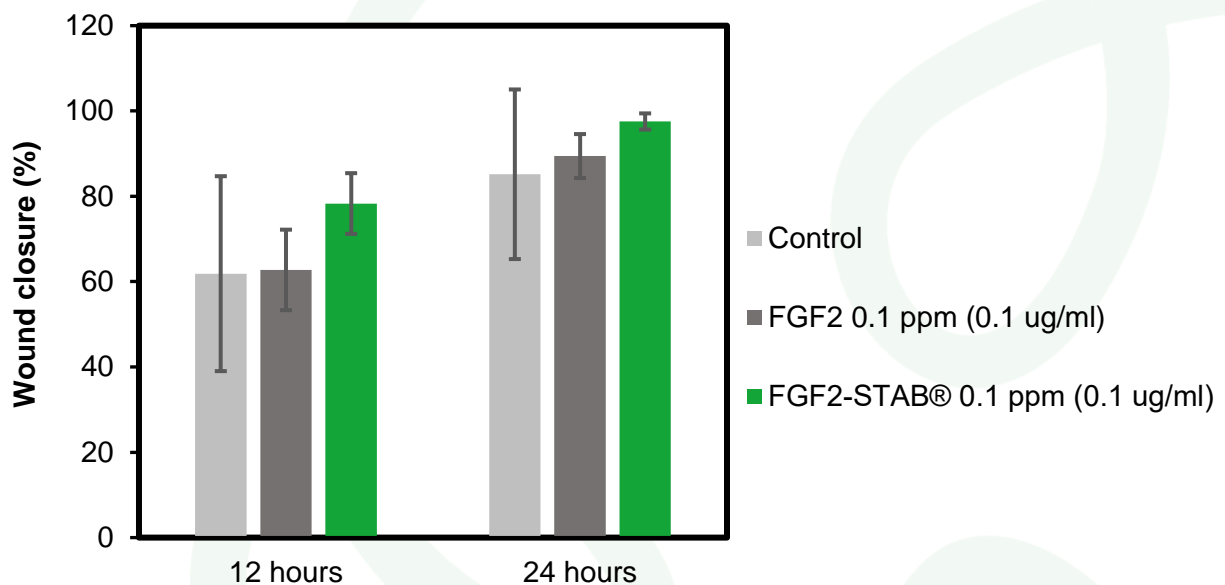
Increased re-epithelization of human fibroblasts.

FGF2-STAB[®] promotes tissue **re-epithelization and cell migration in a shorter period of time** (higher efficiency) compared to FGF2 in the human dermal fibroblast scratch test. Normal human dermal fibroblasts were isolated from facial skin removed during cosmetic plastic surgery with the informed agreement of the donors. Cells were cultured to confluence and serum-starved for 24 h. After starvation, the scratch was induced by pipette tip and the cells were treated with 10 µg/ml (and 100 µg/ml) FGF2 and FGF2-STAB[®] respectively. Pictures of the migrating cells were taken by a microscope and analyzed by TScratch software to determine the reduction of the scratched areas and monitor the cell migration.



Increased migration of human fibroblasts at low concentration

FGF2-STAB[®] promotes **re-epithelization and cell migration** even **at lower concentration of 0.1 µg/ml** in the human fibroblast scratch test (cell migration) in comparison to the native FGF2. Normal human dermal fibroblasts were isolated from the human skin with the informed agreement of the donors. Cells were cultured to confluence and serum starved for 24 h. After starvation, the scratch was induced by pipette tip and the cells were treated with 0.1 µg/ml FGF2 and FGF2-STAB[®] respectively. Pictures of the migrating cells were taken by a microscope and analysed by TScratch software to determine the reduction of the scratched areas and monitor the cell migration. Images were quantified to bar plots (n=3).



EU COMPLIANCE

EU Regulation No. 1223/2009

FGF2-STAB® **is compliant** with EU Regulation No. 1223/2009, including technical documentation, safety information and MSDS.

FGF2-STAB® (INCI: SH-POLYPEPTIDE-1) **is not** listed as a restricted substance in Annex III of EU Regulation No. 1223/2009

EU Allergens

In compliance with **EU Regulation No 1169/2011**, FGF2-STAB® **does not** contain any allergens listed in Annex II.

Annex II Allergens:

- Cereals containing gluten: namely wheat (including specific varieties like spelt and Khorasan), rye, barley, oats and their hybridised strains) and products thereof.
- Crustaceans and products thereof (for example prawns, lobster, crabs and crayfish)
- Egg and products thereof
- Fish and products thereof
- Peanut and products thereof
- Soybeans and products thereof
- Milk and products thereof (including lactose)
- Nuts: namely almond, hazelnut, walnut, cashew, pecan nut, Brazil nut, pistachio nut and Macadamia nut (Queensland nut) and products thereof
- Celery and products thereof
- Mustard and products thereof
- Sesame seeds and products thereof
- Sulphur dioxide and sulphites (at concentrations of more than 10 mg/kg or 10 mg/L in terms of the total SO₂ which are to be calculated for products as proposed ready for consumption or as reconstituted according to the instructions of the manufacturers)
- Lupin and products thereof
- Molluscs and products thereof (for example clams, oysters, scallops, snails and squid)

SAFETY DATA

In vitro cytotoxicity

The toxicological profile of FGF2-STAB® was assessed through in vitro testing using the MTT cytotoxicity assay (VERO CCL-81 kidney fibroblast cell line, African green monkey). In accordance with the standards specified in ČSN EN ISO 10993-5, it was demonstrated that **FGF2-STAB® at a concentration of 1 500 µg/ml did not exhibit cytotoxic potential under the chosen test conditions.** The complete test protocol is available upon request.

In vitro skin irritation

FGF2-STAB® irritation potential was tested in compliance with OECD TG 439 – In Vitro Skin Irritation: Reconstructed Human Epidermis Test Method. Skin irritation by the test sample was assessed using the MTT cytotoxicity assay on the EpiDerm skin model, an organotypic model of human epidermis consisting of reconstructed epidermis and functional stratum corneum. The results demonstrated that **FGF2-STAB® at a concentration of 1 000 µg/ml may be classified as "no category of skin irritation" under the UN Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals,** based on the selected test conditions. The complete test protocol is available upon request.

SAFETY EVALUATION IN CREAM FORMULATION

Skin irritation

Dermatologically tested = Yes

Primary skin irritation test = In 1 out of 20 tested individuals aged 18 to 65, a barely noticeable erythema (mild irritation) without any allergic sensitization reaction was observed → the product demonstrates good skin tolerance.

Sensitivity/Hypoallergenicity according to Human Repeated Insult Patch Test = no sensitive reactions were observed in all 20 tested individuals aged 18 to 65 → the product can be classified as hypoallergenic.

In vivo tests

No observed adverse effect (NOAEL) = 100 µg/kg/day (dogs, intravenously, 28 days) [16].

Margin of Safety (MoS) assessment

Expected skin exposure area = 965 cm² [17]

Daily exposure dose = 1 600 mg (applied twice daily - 0.8 g each time)

Body weight of the individual = 60 kg [17]

Relative daily exposition ($E_{product}$) = 26.7 mg/kg body weight/day

$$\left(E_{product} = \frac{\text{daily exposition dose}}{\text{human body weight}} = \frac{1600}{60} \right)$$

Dermal absorption (DA_p) = 0.6% (transdermal penetration of FGF2-STAB[®] through the STRAT-M membrane)

Substances > 500 Da = very low dermal absorption → DA_p ≈ 50% [17]

Recommended concentration of FGF2-STAB[®] in the cosmetic product = 10 µg/ml (final concentration)

Retention factor according to the product type (face cream) = 1 [17]

The systemic exposure dose (SED) considering the 0.6% dermal absorption is calculated as 0.0000016 mg/kg body weight/day.

$$\left(SED = E_{product} \times \frac{C}{100} \times \frac{DA_p}{100} \times f_{ret} = 26.7 \times \frac{0.001}{100} \times \frac{0,6}{100} \times 1 \right)$$

The systemic exposure dose (SED) considering the 50% dermal absorption is calculated as 0.00013 mg/kg body weight/day.

The Margin of Safety (MoS) when considering a 0.6% dermal absorption and utilizing the dose with no apparent toxic effect, extra default value (50%) due to no oral bioavailability data and default factor 3 (no 90-day study, but only 28-day) in the calculation is 1 041.

$$\left(MoS = \frac{NOAEL}{SED} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{3} = \frac{100 \times 10^{-3}}{0.0000016} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{3} \right)$$

The Margin of Safety (MoS) when considering a 50% dermal absorption and utilizing the dose with no apparent toxic effect, extra default value (50%) due to no oral bioavailability data and default factor 3 (no 90-day study, but only 28-day) in the calculation is 128.

→ cosmetic ingredient is considered as safe, if MoS ≥ 100.

LIST OF COMPATIBLE INGREDIENTS

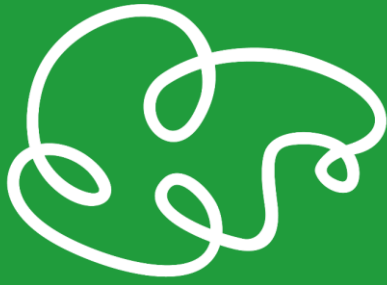
INGREDIENT	CONCENTRATION
Glycerol	5% v/v
Glycerol + ethanol	5% v/v + 0.5 % v/v
Eusolex T-2000 + glycerol + euxyl PE9010	1.5% w/v + 3% v/v + 0.6% v/v
Eusolex 232 +glycerol + euxyl PE9010	1% w/v + 3% v/v + 0.6% v/v
Eusolex T-AVO + glycerol + euxyl PE9010	1.5% w/v + 3% v/v + 0.6% v/v
Euxyl	0,5% w/v
Propylenglykol	5% v/v
Butylenglykol	5% v/v
Ethanol	2% v/v
Ethanol	10% v/v
Ethanol	20% v/v
Urea	2% w/v
Disodium EDTA	0.2% w/v
Bisabolol	1% w/v
Panthenol	1% w/v
Vitamin C (L-ascorbic acid)	1% w/v
Pentylenglycol	5% v/v
Hyaluronic acid	0.1% w/v

LIST OF INCOMPATIBLE INGREDIENTS

INGREDIENT	CONCENTRATION
Chlorophyllin	0.1% w/v
Acetylcysteine	0.5% w/v

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Enantis is an innovative biotechnology company focused primarily on **growth factors**, which are among the most important biomolecules in the human body. Our goal is to **enhance their low stability**, making them more applicable in industries such as **cosmetics and medicine**.

The core values and uniqueness of Enantis lie in the **full integration of the development process**, from designing novel molecules to their optimization, characterization, and production. Our mission is to contribute to a **healthier and more sustainable future** through the development of innovative solutions.

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