

Esoterica (hydroquinone) basics

Brightens patches of darkened skin, freckles, age spots. Esoterica (hydroquinone) is an option for lightening hyperpigmented skin, but those areas can darken again when exposed to sunlight or UV light.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Esoterica (hydroquinone) Drug effectiveness			[Progressive blue bar from Week 1 to Month 3]		
Possible side effects†					
Skin irritation	[Red bar from Hours to Days]				
Allergic reaction to sulfites	[Red bar from Hours to Days]				
Blue-black darkening of skin		[Red bar from Days to Month 3]			
Skin dryness			[Red bar from Week 1 to Week 2]		
Skin redness	[Red bar from Hours to Days]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Limit use of Esoterica (hydroquinone) to a thin layer on an area no bigger than face and neck or hands and arms.
- Test Esoterica (hydroquinone) on a small area of unbroken skin before applying on all affected areas. If the skin becomes itchy or blistered within 24 hours, stop use and contact your doctor.
- Use broad spectrum sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher) on areas where Esoterica (hydroquinone) was applied. Sun exposure can cause the skin to darken again.
- Avoid getting Esoterica (hydroquinone) in your eyes or mouth. If this happens, rinse with water immediately.
- Make sure to keep out of reach from children.
- If you don't see any improvement after using Esoterica (hydroquinone) for 2 months, stop using it.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Color changes to skin

In some cases, Esoterica (hydroquinone) can cause skin to gradually turn blue-black in color on the areas where Esoterica (hydroquinone) was used. Rarely, it can result in fairly bad and permanent scarring on the face. If you notice these symptoms, stop use and contact your doctor right away.

Allergic reaction

Esoterica (hydroquinone) contains sulfites. Rarely, some people who are allergic may have an asthma attack or more serious reaction. Talk to your doctor about your allergies.

Skin irritation

Some people experience skin irritation where Esoterica (hydroquinone) was applied. Test for skin sensitivity before using by applying a small amount to an unbroken patch of skin and watching for any reactions for 24 hours. If the skin becomes itchy or forms blisters, stop use and talk to your doctor; minor initial redness is expected.