

- Title** Vitamin C Injection for Cosmetic
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Aim

To assess the safety, efficacy/effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of vitamin C injection for cosmetics, purposes such as anti-ageing, anti-wrinkles and whitening agent.

Conclusions and results

There was no significant clinical evidence to prove that vitamin C injection either used singly or in combination with glutathione and collagen can improve skin elasticity (anti-ageing and anti-wrinkle) and whiten the skin. Although there was a laboratory study that showed the potential effect of vitamin C to improve skin elasticity, the study was low level of evidence. In addition, the safety of vitamin C injection for cosmetic purposes such as anti-ageing, anti-wrinkle and whitening agents was inconclusive due to lack of clinical data retrieved. No cost effectiveness study was retrieved from the scientific databases.

Methods

Electronic databases were searched through the MEDLINE(R) In-process and other Non-Indexed Citations and Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1948 to present, EBM Reviews - Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials-4th Quarter 2010 and EBM Reviews - Health Technology Assessment - 4th Quarter 2010. Other database was PubMed, National Horizon Scanning and FDA website. Besides that, additional articles from bibliographies of retrieved articles and requestor lists were also included. There was no limit in the search. Relevant articles were critically appraised using Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) and the studies were graded according to US/Canadian Preventive Services Task Force (Harris 2001).

Further research/reviews required

The vitamin C injection requires more clinical trial before it can be used for cosmetic purposes such as anti-ageing, anti-wrinkles and whitening agents due to lack of clinical evidence and safety data.

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