



Review Article

Role of aloe vera in skincare: exploring its therapeutic benefits, formulations, and future innovations

Shatrughna U. Nagrik^{1*}, Shivshankar M. ¹, Vishal S. Chharre¹,
Shubhangi M. Dhage¹, Vrushali S. Borey¹

¹Dept. of Pharmacology, Satyajeet College of Pharmacy, Mehkar, Maharashtra, India



ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 28-10-2024

Accepted 01-12-2024

Available online 13-12-2024

Keywords:

Aloe Vera

Aloe barbadensis

Skincare benefits

Moisturizing effects

Clinical applications

ABSTRACT

One of the most ancient species of the Asphodelaceae family, Aloe barbadensis, known for its medicinal, cosmetic, and therapeutic properties, has been used for thousands of years. The Egyptians called it the "plant of immortality," and the use of this plant in skin care dates back thousands of years to ancient Greece and China, where it had a high esteem for its healing and soothing properties. In the modern world, Aloe vera has become an indispensable ingredient in topical dermatological preparations because of its great variety of bioactive compounds, including vitamins, enzymes, polysaccharides, and amino acids, which help confer to it hydrating, anti-inflammatory, and antimicrobial properties. This study focuses on investigating the role played by Aloe vera in skincare by considering its biochemical composition, action mechanisms, clinical uses, and safety evaluations. The bioactive compounds of Aloe vera, including polysaccharides and vitamins, synergistically hydrate, reduce inflammation, and facilitate wound healing. These characteristics contribute to the importance of the application of its use in products against many conditions: acne, eczema, psoriasis, and aging skin. Carrying out a critical evaluation of its therapeutic activity, this work deals with the multi-purpose uses of Aloe vera in commercial cosmetics such as sunscreens, after-sun care products, and sensitive skin preparations. This study juxtaposes unadulterated Aloe vera extracts with commercially formulated products, emphasizing their respective efficacies and constraints. Furthermore, the investigation assesses clinical research that substantiates the therapeutic benefits of Aloe vera in managing burn injuries, hydrating the skin, and soothing irritation. The research also tackles the obstacles encountered in the formulation of Aloe vera-infused products, including concerns regarding stability and interactions with other cosmetic components. The project emphasizes the need for quality control and standardization as well as regulatory consideration that ensures safety and efficacy in long-term usage of Aloe vera. Additionally, the prevailing consumer trends that prioritize natural, vegan, and cruelty-free products are examined, highlighting the increasing prominence of Aloe vera within the skincare sector. The project culminates in a discussion of prospective developments, accentuating advancements such as nanotechnology, genetic engineering, and sustainable farming practices that may significantly augment Aloe vera's application in dermatology, especially in relation to anti-aging and skin barrier repair therapies.

This is an Open Access (OA) journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/), which allows others to remix, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

For reprints contact: reprint@ipinnovative.com

1. Introduction

Aloe vera (*Aloe barbadensis*) is a well-known medicinal plant belonging to the family Asphodelaceae. It has been used for centuries across various civilizations for its therapeutic, cosmetic, and medicinal benefits. Historically,

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: Shivshankarnagrik11@gmail.com (S. U. Nagrik).

the Egyptians referred to Aloe vera as the “plant of immortality” and used it in their beauty treatments. Its use in skincare can be traced back to ancient Greece and China, where it was applied to treat wounds and skin irritations. Today, Aloe vera is extensively incorporated into modern skincare products due to its beneficial properties.¹ It was introduced to the northern regions as well as to other countries around the world. Commercial cultivation of plant includes Aruba, Bonaire, Haiti, India, South Africa, the United States and Venezuela. However, the best quality aloe vera plant comes from the desert of southern California. Several names of this plant are known i.e. Aloe, Aloe vera, Aloe capensis,



Figure 1: Aloevera Plant
(Aloe vera Plant image - Search Images)

Aloe spicata, Barbados loe, Cape aloe; the names are various and depend also on the country of cultivation or origin e.g. Chirukattali (India), Laloï (Haiti), Lohoi (Vietnam), Luhui (China), Rokai (Japan), Sabilla (Cuba).² Aloe vera (Figure 1) is a succulent plant renowned for its medicinal properties. Its thick, fleshy leaves contain a gel rich in vitamins, minerals, and amino acids. The use of aloe vera is very wide by the industry, in particular by such branches as food and cosmetics.(Table 1)

The use of aloe vera is very wide by the industry, in particular by such branches as as food and cosmetics.

Table 1:

Uses of aloe vera	
1	Food industry
2	Concentrate
3	jam, jellies, addition to tea, water or juice
4	Gel
5	bar, chewing gum, instant aloe vera tea granules, candy type aloe vitamins, aloe vera fruit smoothies
6	Juice
7	drinks (health, soft, laxative), sports drink (with electrolytes), diet drink (with soluble fiber), hangover drink (with B-vitamins), vegetable juice mix, mix for alcohol (whiskey), bread, yoghurt
8	Powder
9	yoghurt, Curd, Ice-cream
10	Cosmetics Industry
11	creams, Lotions, Herbal masks
12	Soaps, Bath lotions, Emulsions for and after tanning
13	Deodorant
14	Tonic
15	Pharmaceutical industry
16	preparations treating skin lesions, anti-dandruff shampoos, anti-hair loss products

1.1. Key Components of Aloe Vera

1.1.1. Botanical classification

Aloe barbadensis is part of the Liliaceae family, although it is often placed in the Asphodelaceae family in modern classifications.

1.1.2. Brief history of use

The history of Aloe vera spans over 6000 years. In Egyptian records, it was depicted in stone carvings as a sacred plant with healing powers. Over time, Aloe vera gained widespread use in skincare and cosmetic industries due to its moisturizing, anti-inflammatory, and healing properties.

1.1.3. Skincare benefits

Aloe vera contains vitamins, enzymes, minerals, amino acids, and polysaccharides responsible for its moisturizing, soothing, and repairing action on skin.³ The image of Aloe vera juice (Figure 2) showcases its vibrant color and inviting appearance, making it an appealing choice for health-conscious consumers.

1.2. Importance of aloe vera in traditional and modern skincare

Aloe vera is classified as a succulent that has formed the backbone in traditional remedy for thousands of years, mainly in the skincare field. The popularity of this succulent is very much based on curative, soothing, and moistening properties that it has as a consequence of vitamins, enzymes,



Figure 2: Aloe vera juice
(Aloe vera juice image - Search Images)

minerals, and amino acids. In modern terms, Aloe vera has evolved from merely being a traditional remedy into one widely studied and applied in many cosmetic products aimed at improving skin conditions.

Aloe vera has been used in treating skin wounds, burns, and other dermatological conditions for a long time. It was applied on the skin as an extract from its leaves to cool down the skin and heal it. Its use can be traced back to the ancient civilizations of the Egyptians and Greeks, who knew about the healing properties of the plant.

This makes it one of the widely used components in modern skincare practices because of its various advantages. It is basically a basic ingredient in lots of moisturizing formulations, sun protection products, and anti-aging treatments. The bioactive constituents of the plant, including polysaccharides, anthraquinones, and lectins, play a great role in its efficacy for skin hydration, facilitating recovery of wounds, relieving inflammation, and overcoming microbial infections. Properties like these make it a necessary ingredient in routine skincare regimens and also in targeted therapeutic formulations.⁴

2. Composition of Aloe Vera

2.1. Key bioactive components

Aloe vera is renowned for its skin-soothing and healing properties, which stem from its rich composition of bioactive compounds. The major constituents of Aloe vera include vitamins, minerals, enzymes, polysaccharides, and amino acids. These compounds work synergistically to provide multiple benefits in skin care products.⁵

2.1.1. Vitamins

Aloe vera contains several key vitamins that contribute to skin health. Vitamin A (beta-carotene) aids in skin repair, while vitamins C and E act as antioxidants, protecting the skin from oxidative stress and environmental damage. Vitamin C is also involved in collagen synthesis, promoting skin elasticity and reducing signs of aging.⁶

2.1.2. Minerals

Essential minerals in Aloe vera, such as calcium, magnesium, zinc, and copper, play vital roles in skin repair and regeneration. For example, zinc contributes to wound healing and has anti-inflammatory properties, making Aloe vera effective in managing skin irritation and acne.

2.1.3. Enzymes

Aloe vera contains enzymes like bradykinase, which reduces inflammation, and aloin, which acts as a mild exfoliant by removing dead skin cells. These enzymes enhance the penetration of other active ingredients in skin care formulations, making them more effective.

2.1.4. Polysaccharides

Among the most significant bioactive components, polysaccharides such as acemannan are known for their hydrating and skin-soothing properties. They form a protective barrier on the skin, helping to retain moisture and support the skin's natural healing process.⁷

2.1.5. Amino Acids

There are several types of essential and non-essential amino acids that Aloe vera provides, which are essential in the nourishment and restoration of skin. It especially has glutamic acid and serine, which are important for moisturizing and reviving the skin. The presence of amino acids makes Aloe vera a very valuable ingredient in hydrating and repairing products.

The bioactive compounds present in Aloe vera, such as vitamins, minerals, enzymes, polysaccharides, and amino acids, determine its multi-dimension application in skin care. These factors hydrate the skin, reduce inflammation, promote wound healing, and protect the skin against environmental aggressors, making Aloe vera an exclusive part of modern skin care components.

2.2. Overview of the therapeutic properties of these components

The diversified mixture of constituents found in aloe vera gives them a number of therapeutic benefits. It has commonly been recognized for its anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, and wound-healing properties, thereby making it an important ingredient in skincare.

2.3. Anti-Inflammatory activity

Aloe vera inhibits enzymes such as cyclooxygenase responsible for inflammation; thus, it tends to reduce inflammation. This makes it very useful in treating skin diseases such as acne, psoriasis, and eczema.⁸

2.4. Wound healing

Research has shown that Aloe vera can accelerate the healing process of wounds by improving the synthesis of collagen and improving the elasticity of the skin. Additionally, the gel's ability to retain hydration of the skin promotes faster recovery from injuries and burns.

2.5. Antimicrobial activity

Research indicates that Aloe vera possesses antimicrobial characteristics, which impede the proliferation of bacteria, fungi, and viruses. Consequently, this attribute renders it beneficial in the management of acne and in averting infections associated with superficial cuts and burns.⁹

These characteristics render Aloe vera an essential component in numerous skincare formulations designed for hydration, alleviation, and the repair of the skin.⁹

2.6. Variability in composition based on species and growing conditions

Aloe vera is valued for its medicinal properties and widely used in dermatological preparations. The chemical composition of Aloe vera is remarkably diverse, depending on the species, cultivation conditions, and environmental factors. The gel derived from Aloe vera contains bioactive compounds like polysaccharides, vitamins, enzymes, and minerals that contribute significantly to its therapeutic, hydrating, and anti-inflammatory activities.

2.6.1. Species diversity

Out of some 500 species of Aloe known, the most widely applied commercial industries are Aloe barbadensis Miller, simply referred to as Aloe vera, with the biggest polysaccharides as acemannan, characterized as high hydrating and healing for wounds. Other species contain other contents of the bioactive compounds.¹⁰

2.7. Growth influencing factors

The chemical composition of Aloe vera is dependent on various environmental factors, including light exposure, the ambient temperature, and the type of soil. Research has shown that Aloe samples originating from different geographical locations have varying levels of secondary metabolites like aloin and anthraquinones, which determine their respective antioxidant and antimicrobial activity. For instance, Aloe vera cultivated in salty conditions mainly contains higher levels of certain phenolic compounds that significantly improve its antioxidant activity.

3. Seasonal and Environmental Impact

The quantity as well as the quality of the Aloe vera gel taken from the plant is seasonal. Samples harvested at warmer areas produce higher concentrations of bioactive

compounds, in this case, vitamins C and E while enhancing the efficacy of skincare therapies. In addition, the kind of soil and farming technique impacts nutrient uptake as well as therefore the chemical make-up of the plant.¹¹

Aloe vera is composed differently, which subjects it to species, environmental conditions, and geographical regions. Thus, manufacturers need standardized extraction and processing techniques to ensure uniformity in their product's formulation for skin care.

3.1. Mechanisms of action in skin care

The incorporation of Aloe vera in dermal care formulations emphasizes its hydrating and moisturizing characteristics, anti-inflammatory benefits, wound healing capabilities, antioxidant activity, and antimicrobial properties.

3.2. Hydration and moisturizing features

Polysaccharides within Aloe vera, like acemannan, hydrate deeply because of a protective layer that it retains the moisture. It is helpful in skin for retaining the level of water that usually makes it a good moisturizer for dry as well as inflamed skin. Sometimes it is also used with creams and gels to improve hydration in the skin and reduce trans-epidermal water loss.

3.3. Inflammation reduction and healing effects

Aloe vera contains anti-inflammatory agents that may include bradykinase and C-glucosyl chromone, which will considerably reduce inflammation and irritation on the skin. The product attributes are crucial in the treatment of various cutaneous problems like eczema and acne. Aloe vera also possesses considerable curative abilities for wounds, as it increases healing through the promotion of fibroblast activity and thereby collagen production. Empirical studies support the use of Aloe vera gel for burn healing, during which it significantly reduces healing time by promoting cell regeneration.¹²

3.4. Antioxidant activity and fighting against skin aging

Aloe vera contains good amounts of vitamins A, C, and E. These play as a strong antioxidant in combating free radicals to protect the skin from oxidative stress and impact of early aging. Regular application of Aloe vera-infused products also enhances the elasticity of skin, reduces wrinkles, and gives it a more refined texture. Meanwhile, this improves the immune system of the skin to fight off environmental factors like pollution and ultraviolet rays.

3.5. Antimicrobial activity against skin pathogens

Aloe vera has been found to have antimicrobial activity and is, therefore, useful in preventing infections of wounds and acne-prone skins. Studies have documented it to possess

inhibitory effects on growth of bacteria like *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli*, besides exhibiting antifungal and antiviral activities.¹³ This quality renders Aloe vera more effective in skincare formulations, particularly in cleansing products as well as acne products.

4. Applications of Aloe Vera in Skin Care Products

Applications of Aloe Vera in Skin Care Products, covering its common formulations, role in sun care products, and its use for various skin conditions, alongside a comparison of pure extract vs. formulated products. Aloe vera gel (Figure 3), extracted from the fleshy leaves of the Aloe vera plant, is a versatile natural remedy with numerous applications in skincare and wound healing.

4.1. Common types of formulations

Aloe vera is a versatile component in various skin care formulations such as gels, creams, lotions, and masks. The primary use of Aloe vera in these products is to hydrate and soothe the skin. Formulations like creams and lotions often combine Aloe vera with other emollients to enhance moisture retention and skin protection.



Figure 3: Aloe vera Gel

(Source: blob (154×131) ; OIP:IMpg5cmMSioFKPXc_TxW2AAAAA (200×200))

1. **Gels:** Aloe vera gel is commonly used for its light, non-greasy texture, which provides instant hydration and relief for dry, irritated skin.
2. **Creams and Lotions:** These thicker formulations integrate Aloe vera for prolonged moisture and are suitable for drier skin types.

4.2. Role in sunscreen and after-sun care products

Aloe vera plays a significant role in sun care products, particularly in sunscreens and after-sun gels. It helps soothe sunburned skin and prevents the inflammation caused by UV exposure. The polysaccharides and antioxidants, such as vitamins C and E, reportedly cooperate in the neutralization



Figure 4: Aloe vera Sunscreen

(Source: OIP:MFXP4swpWk8_d7vvuZvkngHaHa (474×474))

of oxidative stress in the skin and further aid healing processes. Sunscreens formulations with Aloe vera have also been recognized for increased moisturizing power and additional protection benefits to the skin^{14,15}.

Aloe vera sunscreen (Figure 4) offers a natural and effective solution for sun protection, combining the soothing properties of aloe vera with broad-spectrum UV filters.

5. Challenges and Considerations in Formulating With Aloe Vera

5.1. Stability of Aloe vera extracts in formulations

Challenges and considerations in formulating with Aloe Vera with a focus on stability issues of Aloe vera extracts.¹⁶

5.2. Problems in formulation with aloe vera: Stability issues

Aloe vera, extensively utilized in cosmetic and pharmaceutical formulations, poses numerous challenges in its formulation due to the inherent instability of its bioactive constituents. The preservation of the therapeutic effectiveness of Aloe vera extracts throughout the formulation process is complicated by their susceptibility to environmental influences, including heat, light, and oxygen.¹⁷

5.3. Degradation of bioactive compounds

Aloe vera possesses carbohydrates, enzymes, vitamins, among other bioactive ingredients that are easily degraded. Prolonged light exposure or light exposure with higher temperatures in the presence of air or oxygen leads to decomposition of these vital components and reduces the final product's efficacy. Freeze-drying and encapsulation are widely used stabilization methods for preserving Aloe vera

activity.¹⁸

5.4. Inclusion of stabilizers and preservatives

Most of the formulations containing Aloe vera include stabilizers and preservatives for the inhibition of microbial contamination and enzymatic degradation. However, overuse of preservatives may hamper the inherent characteristics of Aloe vera that have inherent biocompatibility along with properties promoting skin soothing. Moreover, stabilization through chemical methods like freeze-drying has been found effective for retention of polysaccharides that contribute to skin-related benefits of Aloe vera.

Innovative encapsulation techniques, namely nanoemulsions and liposomes, are increasingly being used for protecting the extracts of Aloe vera from degradation and for providing the possibility of extended release in topical formulations. Apart from improving the bioavailability of the constituents of Aloe vera, these delivery mechanisms also help stabilize the formulations through protection of sensitive bioactive compounds against environmental degradation.

5.5. Formulation compatibility

Aloe vera is often mixed with other active ingredients in cosmetic formulations; however, this can raise formulation compatibility issues. Some of the mixtures may enhance degradation of the bioactive compounds of Aloe vera and require further formulation adjustments.¹⁹

5.6. Interaction with other ingredients in cosmetic formulations

Aloe vera is mainly used in cosmetic formulations for its desirable properties, such as hydrating, soothing, and anti-inflammatory action. However, the use of Aloe vera in cosmetic products involves many problems, including its interaction with other components. These interactions can be defined as affecting the stability, efficacy, and general functionality of the product.

5.7. Stability and preservation

The gel derived from Aloe vera exhibits a significant water content, rendering it vulnerable to microbial contamination. To mitigate microbial proliferation, preservatives like parabens, phenoxyethanol, or benzyl alcohol are frequently incorporated; however, their presence can occasionally modify the efficacy of Aloe vera. It is essential to ascertain the compatibility of these preservatives with Aloe vera in order to avert product degradation.

5.8. Emulsion interaction with thickeners

Aloe vera is often blended with emulsifying and thickening agents to make creams or lotions. However, the polysaccharides in Aloe vera gel may interact with certain emulsifiers, leading to emulsion separation or instability. For instance, it may require adjustment of pH or the use of compatible thickeners like xanthan gum for achieving the product's stability.

6. Synergistic and Antagonistic Interactions

Aloe vera interacts with many active ingredients, such as vitamins like Vitamin C and Vitamin E, retinoids, and sunscreens. This interaction may synergistically enhance or antagonize the therapeutic effects of Aloe vera and the other actives. To illustrate this, various studies have proved that Aloe vera helps in making certain actives, like antioxidants, penetrate more easily into the skin to achieve higher efficacy. However, caution has to be exercised so that side effects do not occur as a result of these interactions.

6.1. pH sensitivity

In general, the pH value of Aloe vera gel is in the range of 4 and 5. Hence, maintaining this pH in formulations ensures its stability and effectiveness. In case there are incompatibilities with alkaline ingredients, compounds that are beneficial for Aloe may degrade. Thus, the formulator needs to work on careful pH adjustment without affecting the stability of other constituents.²⁰

6.2. Standardization of aloe vera concentration in commercial preparations

Incorporation of Aloe vera into skin care products has been known to face significant issues in terms of quality assurance and standardization of its biologically active constituents. This plant is well recognized for its moisturizing and restorative features and needs processing to retain its effectiveness when used as cosmetic products. However, inconsistency in preparation, storage, or handling of Aloe vera products compromises the product.

6.2.1. Quality control

The production of Aloe vera gel requires strict quality control measures so that the active constituents, most importantly, acemannan and other polysaccharides, are retained in their active form. One major challenge lies in ensuring stability during various stages of formulation and storage. Poor storage conditions can possibly compromise the integrity of the bioactive substances, thus lowering the potency of the final product.

6.3. Standardization

For commercial skincare recipes, standardization of levels of Aloe vera gel is essential but seems to be a very challenging task since variability in the biochemical composition of the plant is also pretty wide. Factors that influence the quantity of active components in Aloe vera, especially polysaccharides responsible for its therapeutic properties are origin, harvesting conditions, and processing techniques. High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) standardized methods are required for the determination of those components for ensuring consistency between products.²¹

6.4. Regulatory issues

Aloe vera products usually undergo severe regulatory issues in terms of quality control, particularly when international trading is considered. The absence of normalized measurement of the concentration of Aloe vera in skincare preparations has resulted in patchy consistency in the product's performance, which might have eroded the consumer's confidence. Development of standardized international measures and certifications of Aloe vera would greatly boost the reliability of the product.²²

6.5. Regulatory considerations and safety profiles

6.5.1. Regulatory considerations

Considering the variations of tolerable concentration in different countries, regulation is key for Aloe vera. Generally, the overall risk assessment of Aloe vera has been positive; however, there is an issue also with contamination and adulteration. For example, since anthraquinone-type compounds may pose a potential laxative effect through ingestion control needs to be exercised as part of the process of preparing topical preparations.

6.5.2. Safety profiles

Safety assessments show that Aloe vera is relatively well tolerated in the vast majority of dermatologic preparations. However, there have been rare cases of hypersensitivity reported. Moreover, it will be difficult to achieve the constant bioactivity of Aloe vera extracts in products since its processing methods and quality of raw materials may greatly influence the efficacy.²³ Benefits of Aloe vera for skin care are undoubtedly persuasively convincing, but successful formulation of products would depend on stability, regulatory, and safety challenges. Processing techniques and compliance with regulations will be necessary attention to further improve its therapeutic benefits.

7. Consumer Trends and Market Insights

7.1. Current market trends in Aloe vera-based skin care products

1. *Consumer Trends:* Aloe vera has been used in formulation of skincare products because of the moisturizing, anti-inflammatory, and skin soothing benefits. Recently, natural and plant products got popular in the cosmetics industry, and thus, Aloe vera plays a vital role in the cosmetic industry of the world. The following are the main findings of the study with regard to the existing trends among consumer and the contingency of the market for Aloe vera skin products.
2. *Increasing demand in natural products:* Consumers are increasingly demanding natural ingredients like Aloe Vera in products. This is essentially part of a larger trend toward sustainability and organic personal care. In terms of health-conscious consumers seeking safe, chemical-free skincare options, demand for Aloe vera-based products is particularly high among such consumers.
3. *Increased Demand for Vegan and Cruelty-Free Products:* Generally, with vegan and cruelty-free skincare products gaining demand, Aloe vera fits well into the category because of botanic origin. Based on studies, consumers will advertise more about their environmentally friendly as well as animal cruelty-free brands if those brands point out the benefits of Aloe vera for hydration and reformation of skins.²⁴
4. *Antioxidant properties make it popular in anti-ageing products:* Aloe vera's natural antioxidant properties have made it an ingredient in anti-ageing formulations. The worldwide skincare market, influenced by consumers' interest in skin retaining its youthfulness, more and more now incorporates Aloe vera into their ranges as products against the wrinkles and fine lines.
5. *Innovative Formulation Development:* Innovative product development formulation of Aloe vera combines it with other active ingredients to create multifunctional products in the skin care industry. These innovations drive consumers looking for high-performance products with several benefits, such as moisturizing and repair.

7.2. Consumer perceptions and demand for natural and organic skin care

1. *Perceptions of Consumers about Aloe Vera:* Aloe Vera is predominantly regarded by consumers as a safe, natural, and efficacious component. It is commonly linked to benefits such as hydration, soothing properties, and the promotion of skin healing. A pivotal element contributing to its widespread appeal is the perception of its purity and low

levels of chemical processing, which resonates with the increasing consumer inclination towards “clean” beauty products. Moreover, Aloe Vera is frequently advertised as hypoallergenic and appropriate for individuals with sensitive skin, thereby enhancing its attractiveness to health-conscious consumers.²⁵

2. *Organic Certification and Trust for Aloe Vera Products:* The products carrying Aloe Vera frequently emphasize the presence of certifications associated with organic farming and eco-friendly production. Certified organic products are considered more reliable, and there has been a surge in demand for Aloe Vera in such products from environmentally conscious consumers. This is merely a pattern in the skincare market where eco-labels and sustainability claims play a huge role in the purchasing decision.
3. *Market Development and Product Lines:* The market of Aloe Vera-infused skincare is strongly growing, and this includes innovations of gels, creams, serums, and masks for the face. This growing preference of consumers for Aloe Vera-based cosmetology is to be mainly attributed to its wide extent of benefits, such as anti-inflammatory and anti-aging. Besides this, there is the trend to multifunctional natural product applications; Aloe Vera, with all its advantages, for different types and conditions of skin also deserves a high place.²⁶
4. *Transparency and Authenticity in Product Formulation:* Consumers are increasingly scrutinizing ingredient lists and becoming more vocal in demanding visibility within their products’ formulations. The simplicity of Aloe Vera as a natural ingredient makes it a very effective, given the need for transparency, authenticity, and traceability within the skincare industry today. Brands that specifically call out pure and highly concentrated forms of Aloe Vera tend to have the best chances at garnering consumer trust.
5. *Social Media and Influencer Impact:* The growing popularity of Aloe Vera-based skincare products has been highly supplemented by social media, wherein influencers often endorse trends based on natural beauty. Moreover, the organic and natural associations associated with Aloe Vera are directly aligned with the current practice in social media, which is opting for minimalistic skins that are both safe and effective. This increased digital exposure has created a higher demand for Aloe Vera in traditional skincare applications.²⁷

8. Future Perspectives and Innovations

8.1. Emerging studies on Aloe vera in dermatology

Aloe Vera was known for several years due to its rich content of vitamins, enzymes, minerals, and amino acids, which prevented, hydrated, and renovated skin tissue. Future

prospects of Aloe Vera in dermatology do seem to be better as it is being developed to increase the bioavailability, effectiveness, and broaden the therapeutical usage.

1. *Integration with Nanotechnology:* There have been recent studies focusing on integrating Aloe Vera with nanotechnology to enhance its bioavailability and target delivery across the dermal layers. Liposomes and niosomes are types of nanocarriers that have increased the penetration of Aloe Vera across the strata of the skin, thus boosting therapeutic response for conditions such as psoriasis and dermatitis.
2. *Bioactive Compounds Isolation:* New research is focused on the isolation of certain bioactive compounds in Aloe Vera, including acemannan, anthraquinones, and polysaccharides, in order to introduce skin treatments with much stronger efficacy. These compounds are further studied for their anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, and stimulating effect on collagen, which is quite imperative in wound healing and anti-aging formulations.
3. Genetic manipulation, which is applied in terms of yield improvement, focuses on biotechnological advancements that imply the genetic alteration of Aloe Vera plants towards the enhancement of the concentrations of particular active constituents. By improving compounds like mannose-6-phosphate and glucomannans, researchers strive to synthesize more powerful and concentrated extracts of Aloe Vera meant for derma-related applications.
4. *Sustainable extraction methods:* As the demand for natural skin care products increases, there is substantial research on sustainable extraction methods of Aloe Vera. New frontier research studies include supercritical fluid extraction (SFE) and enzyme-assisted extraction (EAE) to ensure that all the beneficial properties of Aloe Vera would not be lost in the processing while minimizing the harmful effects on the environment.

9. Clinical Applications and Future Implications

1. *Skin Cancer Prevention:* Early studies indicate that Aloe Vera extracts may have potential in preventing UV-induced skin cancers due to their antioxidant and photoprotective properties.
2. Future formulations could see Aloe Vera being used in sunscreens or skin repair products aimed at mitigating the effects of sun damage.²⁸
3. *Personalized Skin Care:* With the rise of personalized medicine, Aloe Vera-based products are being studied for customized skin treatments. By identifying individual skin needs through genetic testing, future Aloe Vera formulations could be tailored to specific dermatological conditions such as eczema, acne, or

pigmentation issues.²⁹ The future of Aloe Vera in skin care is bright, with ongoing research promising to unlock new therapeutic potentials. The integration of nanotechnology, genetic engineering, and sustainable practices will likely revolutionize how Aloe Vera is utilized in dermatological treatments, making it more effective, accessible, and eco-friendly.

9.1. Potential new applications in skin care

It is commonly known for its therapeutic property especially with regard to skin treatment. Circumstances. New researches have revealed many potential uses, mainly related to anti-aging and skin barrier repair.

1. **Anti-Aging Properties:** The critical vitamins, enzymes, and antioxidants, including vitamins A, C, and E of Aloe Vera, play fundamental roles in the production of collagens and therefore elasticity of skin. Some of these have secondary roles in sustaining the look of smooth skin by filling up fine lines and wrinkles. Future innovations may focus on improving these properties with advanced formulation targeted at longer-lasting effects at deeper layers of the skin.
2. **Skin Barrier Repair:** Aloe Vera has demonstrated encouraging effects in fortifying the skin barrier, an essential component for safeguarding against environmental pollutants and minimizing moisture loss. Subsequent advancements may integrate Aloe Vera into formulations aimed at sensitive or compromised skin, with an emphasis on more effectively restoring the integrity of the barrier. This consideration is especially pertinent for conditions such as eczema or dermatitis, where the protective layer of the skin is impaired.
3. **Innovative Delivery Mechanisms :** Research is also being done for enhancing the delivery mechanism of Aloe Vera's active molecules. Nanotechnology and lipid-based carrier systems are under consideration to enhance bioavailability of Aloe Vera's beneficial constituents, whereby it would penetrate the skin quite deeply.³⁰

10. Discussion

The review paper highlights the multifaceted role of Aloe vera (*Aloe barbadensis*) in skincare, emphasizing its historical and contemporary significance. Its rich biochemical profile, comprising vitamins, polysaccharides, enzymes, and amino acids, underpins its therapeutic benefits, such as hydrating, anti-inflammatory, and antimicrobial properties. This positions Aloe vera as a crucial ingredient in treating various skin conditions, including acne, eczema, and psoriasis. The paper underscores Aloe vera's role in modern dermatological

products like sunscreens and sensitive skin formulations. A comparative analysis between pure extracts and commercial products reveals variations in efficacy, pointing to challenges in formulation stability and interactions with other ingredients. This highlights the necessity for stringent quality control and standardization to ensure safety and effectiveness. Moreover, the review aligns Aloe vera's growing popularity with consumer trends favoring natural, vegan, and cruelty-free products. It anticipates future innovations, including nanotechnology and genetic engineering, which could enhance Aloe vera's application in advanced dermatological therapies like anti-aging and skin barrier repair. Overall, the paper provides a comprehensive exploration of Aloe vera's therapeutic potential while advocating for ongoing research and innovation to address formulation challenges and maximize its skincare benefits.

11. Conclusion

Aloe vera has been known, even from the earliest times, for its medical and cosmetic benefits, and its importance in dermal care will continue to advance alongside scientific development. Its sheer diversity of bioactive active ingredients such as vitamins, enzymes, and polysaccharides contributes to making Aloe vera an essential component for skin moisturizing, calming, and repairing. The current project has explained the traditional applications accumulated with the modern empirical evidence that proves Aloe vera does overcome problems of dermatological matters, including such as acne, eczema, and burns. Furthermore, with recent advancements in areas of nanotechnology and sustainable methods of extracting the product, new opportunities are being created for the bioavailability of cosmetics products.

With the development of customized skincare formulations and research on the anti-aging properties and reparation of the skin barrier by Aloe vera, it is a potential future application.

There also remain stability, formulative, and regulatory issues for maximum safety and efficacy. However, given the continuously increasing demand for natural and environmentally friendly consumer products, formulations containing Aloe vera are well placed to stay as part of the traditional as well as modern skincare market. Further studies will most likely reveal more applications for this versatile plant in settling its role as a long-term resource for dermatological therapy.

12. Conflict of Interest

None.

13. Source of Funding

None.

References

- Sharma P, Kharkwal AC, Kharkwal H. A review on pharmacological properties of Aloe vera. *Int J Pharm Sci Rev Res*. 2014;29(2):31–7.
- Miko N. Potential health benefits of aloe vera Natalia Mikołajczak. *J Educ Heal Sport*. 2018;8(9):1420–55.
- Mikołajczak N. Potential health benefits of Aloe vera; 2018. Available from: <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/265800>.
- Surjushe A, Vasani R, Saple DG. Aloe vera: A short review. *Indian J Dermatol*. 2008;53(4):163–6.
- Hamman JH. Composition and Applications of Aloe vera Leaf Gel. *Molecules*. 2008;13(8):1599–616.
- Danhof IE, Mcanally BH. Aloes: The genus Aloe. London: CRC Press; 2002. p. 43–67.
- Reynolds T, Dweck AC. Aloe vera leaf gel: A review update. *J Ethnopharm*. 2003;86(1):3–7.
- Mukherjee PK, Nema NK, Maity N. Phytochemical and therapeutic profile of Aloe vera. *J Nat Remedies*. 2014;14(1):1–26.
- Moghaddasi MS, Res M. Aloe Vera: Its chemical composition and applications: A review. *Int J Biol Med Res*. 2011;2(1):466–71.
- Dey P, Dutta S, Chowdhury A, Das AP. Variation in phytochemical composition reveals distinct divergence of Aloe vera (L.) Burm. F. from other Aloe species. *J Evid Based Comp Alternat Med*. 2017;22(4):624–31.
- Kumar S, Yadav M, Yadav JP. Impact of spatial and climatic conditions on phytochemical diversity and in vitro antioxidant activity of Indian Aloe vera (L.) Burm. f. *S Afr J Bot*. 2017;111:50–9.
- Singh S, Anjum S, Joy J, Gupta B. Polysaccharide-aloe vera bioactive hydrogels as wound care system. *Cellulose-Based Superabsorbent Hydrog*. 2019;p. 1473–90.
- Maan AA, Nazir A, Khan MK, Ahmad T, Zia R, Murid M, et al. The therapeutic properties and applications of Aloe vera: A review. *J Herb Med*. 2018;12:1–10.
- Mohiuddin AK. Skin Care Creams: Formulation and Use. *Dermatol Clin Res*. 2019;1:103.
- Napagoda M, Witharana S. Exploring the Plant Kingdom for Sources of Skincare Cosmeceuticals: From Indigenous Knowledge to the Nanotechnology Era. In: and others, editor. Wild Planet; 2020. p. 18.
- Saleem A, Naureen I, Naeem M, Murad HS. Aloe Vera Gel in Skin and Pharmacological Properties. *Int J Pharm Appl*. 2022;5(1):1–8.
- Burusapat C, Supawan M, Pruksapong C. Topical Aloe Vera Gel for Accelerated Wound Healing of Split-Thickness Skin Graft Donor Sites: A Double-Blind, Randomized, Controlled Trial and Systematic Review. *Plastis Reconst Surg*. 2018;142(1):217–26.
- Waller TA, Pelley RP, Strickland FM. Industrial processing and quality control of Aloe barbadensis (Aloe vera) gel. *Aloes*. 2004;p. 277–89.
- Beringhs A, Rosa JM, Stulzer HK, Budal RM. Green clay and aloe vera peel-off facial masks: response surface methodology applied to the formulation design. *Aaps Pharmscitech*. 2013;14(3):1030–40.
- Maan AA, Nazir A, Khan M. Therapeutic Properties and Applications of Aloe Vera: A Review. *J Herbal Med*. 2018;12:1–10.
- Sibhat G, Kahsay G, Schepdael V. Evaluation of aloins, pH and moisture in Aloe leaf gel-based personal care products. *Int J Cosm Sci*. 2022;44(1):74–81.
- Waller TA, Pelley RP, Strickland FM. Industrial processing and quality control of Aloe barbadensis (Aloe vera) gel. 1st ed. and others, editor. CRC Press; 2004. p. 68.
- Sánchez-Machado DI, López-Cervantes J. Ancient knowledge with new frontiers. *Trends Food Sci Technol*. 2017;61:94–102.
- Datta HS, Paramesh R. Trends in aging and skin care: Ayurvedic concepts. *J Ayurveda Integrat Med*. 2010;1(2):110–3.
- Golmohammadi F. Medical plant of Aloe Vera in desert regions of Iran: greenhouses, economic importance, development, extension, processing and marketing. *Black Sea J Agricul*. 2022;5(2):45–53.
- Smith AB, Vera JA. The Natural Ingredient for Skin Care. *J Dermatol Res*. 2022;34(2):123–35.
- Yang F. Future Trends in Natural Skincare: Aloe Vera in the Spotlight. *J Green Skincare*. 2023;10(1):80–90.
- Kumar S, Verma P. Synergistic effects of Aloe Vera with other active ingredients for skin care. *J Cosmet Sci*. 2021;72(1):71–85.
- Patel R, Mehta R. Personalized Aloe Vera-based formulations for targeted dermatology. *Pharm Res*. 2021;38(7):991–1001.
- Balaji A, Vellayappan MV, John AA. Biomaterials based nano-applications of Aloe vera and its perspective: a review. *Royal Soc Chem Adv*. 2015;5(105):86199–213.

Author's biography

Shatrughna U. Nagrik, Associate Professor

Shivshankar M., Student  <https://orcid.org/0009-0009-2109-1865>

Vishal S. Chharre, Student

Shubhangi M. Dhage, Student

Vrushali S. Borey, Student

Cite this article: Nagrik SU, SM, Chharre VS, Dhage SM, Borey VS. Role of aloe vera in skincare: exploring its therapeutic benefits, formulations, and future innovations. *Yemen J Med* 2024;3(3):197-206.