

**Tradename:** AC ExoTone

**Code:** 60194

**CAS #:** 7732-18-5 & 85251-63-4 & 123465-35-0 (or) 8002-43-5

**Test Request Form #:** 11546

**Lot #:** N230530A

**Sponsor:** *Active Concepts, LLC; 107 Technology Drive Lincolnton, NC 28092*

**Study Director:** *Daniel Shill*

**Principal Investigator:** *Kayla Patterson*

**Test Performed:**

*In vivo* VISIA Analysis: Pores

**Introduction**

Pores are small holes that are located at the top of hair follicles on the body. Pores release sebum that naturally moisturizes skin. However, pores vary in size and can often appear enlarged which is a result of ageing, sun damage, and clogged pores. Reducing pores can lead to a more youthful and healthy skin appearance.

Accordingly, an *in vivo* study was conducted over a period of four weeks to evaluate the ability of **AC ExoTone** to reduce the appearance pores on the face.

**Study Principle**

Participants applied specific products to designated halves of their face twice a day for four weeks. Measurements were collected once a week during the four-week use period. Photographs of participant faces were obtained using the VISIA Complexion Analysis System and analyzed for pores. Pores are circular surface openings of sweat gland ducts that appear darker than the surrounding skin tone due to shadowing.

**Materials**

- A. Equipment:** VISIA Complexion Analysis System (Canfield Scientific., Fairfield, NJ, USA)
- B. Base Lotion:** Simple® Hydrating Light Moisturizer; Simple® Cleansing Facial Wipes
- C. Software:** Excel Analysis ToolPak (Microsoft)

## Methods

Ten volunteers between the ages of 25 and 39, who were known to be free of any skin pathologies with Fitzpatrick skin types I to IV, participated in this study (Table 1).

**Table 1.** The Fitzpatrick Classification of Skin Types Chart<sup>1</sup>

Fitzpatrick Skin Type Descriptions*	
Skin Type	Description
I	Always burns, never tans
II	Burns easily, tans minimally
III	Burns moderately, tans to light brown
IV	Burns minimally, tans to moderate brown
V	Rarely burns, tans to dark
VI	Never burns, least sensitive to changes

\*Adapted from The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent Skin Cancer

Each half of a participant's face was randomly assigned to a specific condition and treatment (Table 2). The Base Lotion utilized in this study was Simple® Hydrating Light Moisturizer. Following Baseline measurements, participants were provided both conditions and were instructed to apply 0.2 g of product to the specified half of their face twice daily for a four-week period. Participants were instructed to continue their usual skin care routine and to apply the lotion once their everyday skin care routine is finished. Baseline measurements were taken prior to starting the lotion regimen. Measurements were collected once a week during the four-week use period. Participants were instructed not to wear makeup or SPF products for the measurement sessions.

**Table 2.** Descriptions of the Conditions and Treatments for each Skin Test Site

Skin Test Site	Condition	Treatment / Test Article Application Description
1	Base Lotion Control	Base Lotion
2	3.0% AC ExoTone	3.0% AC ExoTone in Base Lotion

Photographic assessments were performed using the VISIA Complexion Analysis System (Canfield Scientific., Fairfield, NJ, USA). The VISIA System ensured consistent positioning of each participant's head and each participant cleaned their face with a gentle facial wipe (Simple® Cleansing Facial Wipes) before images were obtained. The photographic images were captured with standard, cross-polarized, parallel polarized, and ultraviolet light.

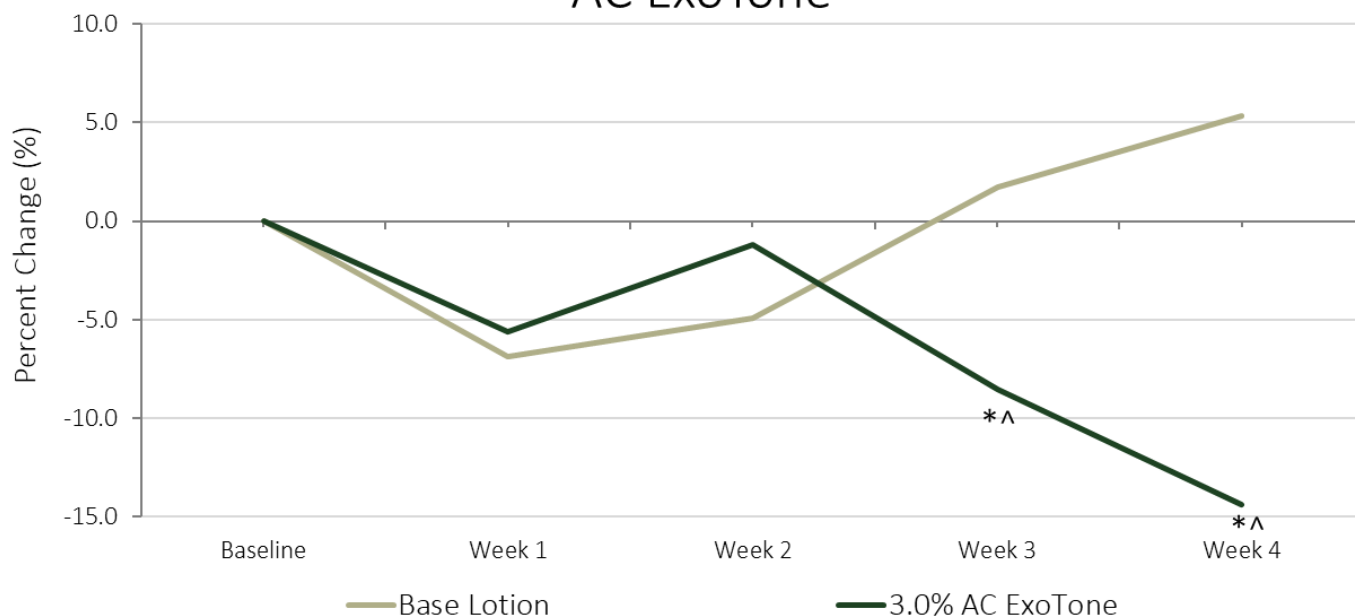
Images were analyzed for Pore Feature Count, which indicates the number of discrete instances of Pores, without regard to the size or intensity, within the analyzed region. Pores are circular surface openings of sweat gland ducts that appear darker than the surrounding skin tone due to shadowing. Therefore, lower Pore counts indicate a more youthful appearance. To further demonstrate the impact of reducing pore counts on skin appearance, the TruSkin Age™ for each condition was included. TruSkin Age™ is a calculated number performed by VISIA to represent the participant's age of their skin. TruSkin Age™ is calculated by comparing the percentile scores for pores to others of the same age group, skin type, and gender. The data is displayed as averages and t-test analyses were performed with statistical significance accepted at  $p \leq 0.05$ . Percent change is expressed relative to Baseline values and calculated by the following equation:

$$\text{Percent Change (\%)} = \frac{\text{Pore Count}_{\text{Week of Application}} - \text{Pore Count}_{\text{Baseline}}}{\text{Pore Count}_{\text{Baseline}}} \times 100$$

## Results

The data obtained met criteria for a valid study and the Base Lotion performed as anticipated. Application of 3.0% AC ExoTone twice a day for four weeks demonstrated a reduction in the number of Pores throughout the four-week treatment period.

## Change in Pore Count AC ExoTone



**Figure 1.** Change in Pore Count from Baseline. \* indicates significance ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) compared to Baseline values. ^ indicates significance ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) compared to Base Lotion within the same timepoint.

**Table 3.** P-values from t-test Analyses of Change in Pore Count from Baseline to After Four Weeks of Application. \* indicates significance ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) compared to Baseline values.

	Baseline vs After Four Weeks of Application
Base Lotion	0.151
3.0% AC ExoTone	< 0.001*

**Table 4.** T-test Analyses of Change in Pore Count between Base Lotion and 3.0% AC ExoTone After Four Weeks of Application. ^ indicates significance ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) compared to Base Lotion within the same timepoint.

	After One Week of Application	After Two Weeks of Application	After Three Weeks of Application	After Four Weeks of Application
P-value	0.641	0.578	0.033^	0.041^

## Change in VISIA TruSkin Age™ After Four Weeks AC ExoTone



**Figure 2.** Change in VISIA TruSkin Age™ in Participants After Four Weeks of Application. \* indicates significance ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) between conditions.

**Table 5.** T-test Analyses of Change in VISIA TruSkin Age™ in Participants After Four Weeks of Application. \* indicates significance ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) between conditions.

	Base Lotion vs 3.0% AC ExoTone
<b>P-value</b>	0.018*



**Image 1.** Images of Participant Treated with 3.0% AC ExoTone. Natural photos (top) and VISIA Image Enhancement (bottom) Before and After Four weeks. Pores are circular surface openings of sweat gland ducts that appear darker than the surrounding skin tone due to shadowing and denoted by dark blue circles.

## Discussion

As evidenced in this four-week study, **AC ExoTone** reduces the appearance of Pores on the face, in addition to reducing VISIA TruSkin Age™. The amount of Pores present was not significantly altered throughout the study with Base Lotion application and elicited an 5% increase in overall number of Pores present, compared to baseline (Figure 1; Table 3). Conversely, applying 3.0% **AC ExoTone** for four weeks resulted in a 14% decrease in the overall number of Pores present, compared to baseline (Figure 1; Table 3). Moreover, applying 3.0% **AC ExoTone** significantly decreased the amount of Pores present compared to the Base Lotion after three and four weeks of application (Figure 1; Table 4). These results indicate that applying 3.0% **AC ExoTone** for four weeks provides a reduction of Pore appearance on the face resulting in a more youthful skin appearance (Image 1).

Additionally, the VISIA software analyzed each image and provides a TruSkin Age™ metric for each participant. TruSkin Age™ represents the age of participants' skin by comparing Pore percentile scores against individuals of the same age group, skin type, and gender in the VISIA database. After four weeks of application, 3.0% **AC ExoTone** significantly decreased TruSkin Age™ by 9 months, while the Base Lotion demonstrated an increase of 12 months (Figure 2; Table 5). These results indicate application of 3.0% **AC ExoTone** for four weeks provides a reduction in VISIA TruSkin Age™ which reduces the visual impacts of normal aging.

Taken together, these results indicate **AC ExoTone** reduces the size and appearance of Pores and simulated skin age when added to personal care applications at recommended use levels. Collectively, **AC ExoTone** improves skin health and provides a more youthful appearance by reducing the visual consequences of normal aging.

## References

1. Sharma AN, Patel BC. Laser Fitzpatrick Skin Type Recommendations. [Updated 2022 Mar 9]. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2022 Jan-. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK557626/>