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Astaxanthin: The Super Antioxidant That Comes From the Ocean

Dr. Joseph Mercola
August 19, 2022

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STORY AT A GLANCE

- Astaxanthin, also called "King of the Carotenoids," is a naturally occurring substance found in a variety of microalgae, as well as certain seafood
- One standout feature of astaxanthin is that it is 550 times stronger than vitamin E and 6,000 times more potent than vitamin C
- Taking astaxanthin regularly may reduce the risk of inflammation in your cardiovascular system. In one study, participants who took 12 milligrams of astaxanthin per day were able to decrease the presence of C-reactive protein in their body, which is an indicator of inflammation

This article was previously published April 23, 2019, and has been updated with new information.

Antioxidants play an important role in promoting health by protecting your body from free radicals, which are molecules that interfere with the function of your organs, resulting in damage. In this article, I want to help you learn how to increase the level of well-known antioxidants such as vitamin C and A, as well as flavonoids from plants. But sometimes, this is simply not enough.

What if there is a certain antioxidant that trumps everything else? The answer you're looking for might be a surprise as it has not been a big item on the antioxidant radar screen.

Astaxanthin, commonly called "King of the Carotenoids," is a naturally occurring substance found in a variety of microalgae, as well as certain seafood, such as salmon, krill, shrimp and lobster. It's lacking the flood of salmon, cod, lobster and shrimp plant. The reasonable regarding the antioxidant is promising, as it has shown that astaxanthin possesses a variety of health benefits.

The Best Astaxanthin Comes From Microalgae

You may have seen some astaxanthin supplements sold in your local health store. Be aware that the majority of these products are made from the haematococcus pluvialis microalgae, but the ones made from spirulina/arthrospira. This ensures that you're getting the legitimate benefits the astaxanthin has to offer, as well as safeguarding your health.

Studies Regarding the Benefits of Astaxanthin

Astaxanthin is quite possibly one of the most valuable antioxidants you can ever take advantage of. Research about this substance is continually growing, and the results are very promising, such as:

Improved antioxidant profile — One standout feature of astaxanthin is that it is 550 times stronger than vitamin E and 6,000 times more potent than vitamin C. In addition, it is 10 times more effective than zeaxanthin, lutein, canthaxanthin and beta-carotene.[1]

Research has also attributed astaxanthin may benefit your health in important ways. In one example, astaxanthin exhibited dispositive protective properties in rats affected with gastric ulcers.[2]

Healing potential — Astaxanthin may benefit your healing by raising your neurotrophin 3 (NT3) levels. Neurotrophin 3 is a protein that helps your nerve cells survive, develop and function. In one study out there subject to this hypothesis when researchers discovered that astaxanthin helped reverse hearing loss in mice.[3]

Reversal of diabetes — Researchers suggest that astaxanthin may benefit diabetics by reducing oxidative stress in their pancreatic cells caused by high blood sugar levels, as well as inflammation in the islets.[4]

Reduced risk of cardiovascular disease — Taking astaxanthin regularly may reduce the risk of inflammation in your cardiovascular system.

In one study, participants who took 12 milligrams of astaxanthin per day were able to decrease the presence of C-reactive protein in their body, which is an indicator of inflammation. In another study, Sprague Dawley rats affected with myocardia had a reduced infarct size once astaxanthin was administered.[5]

Anticancer properties — Astaxanthin has been shown to have potential in fighting cancer. Specifically, it has been found to help prevent cancer cells by decreasing mutagenesis and carcinogenesis by inhibiting proinflammatory damage to cells.

Furthermore, it receives cell to cell communication to help decrease tumor proliferation. In one example, astaxanthin exhibited growth inhibitory effects on human colon cancer cells.[6]

Immune system boost — Your immune system is constantly attacked by free radicals, and astaxanthin can help turn the situation around.

Reports strongly suggest that astaxanthin showed higher immunomodulating effects compared to beta-carotene, as well as enhanced antibody production and cell-mediated immune response.[7,8]

Better eye health — A few studies suggest that astaxanthin may help protect your eye from various conditions, such as:

- Cataracts
- Age-related macular degeneration
- Glaucoma
- Inflammatory eye diseases
- Diabetic retinopathy

Neuroprotective effects — Several studies suggest that astaxanthin may be a powerful tool in maintaining brain health, thanks to its anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties. In one example, 10 elderly participants who took 12 milligrams of astaxanthin daily for 12 weeks displayed improved cognitive and psychomotor function.[9]

Side Effects of Astaxanthin Are Practically Nonexistent

One of the most interesting things about astaxanthin is that it is completely safe to consume, even at doses as high as 500 milligrams per day. The only documented side effect is a slight reddening of the skin, which is harmless and will disappear if you stop taking it. The reddening is caused by your skin's desire to help assuage any concerns you might have before stopping its consumption.

Supplements Are Beneficial, but Natural Sources May Be Better

Based on published data, it's clear that astaxanthin has strong potential for helping optimize your health in a convenient manner when utilized as a supplement. However, it may be more beneficial to consume astaxanthin using a natural approach via the foods where it is commonly found.

The reason why you want to consume astaxanthin in its natural form is because it's the way your body is set up to get it. Aside from astaxanthin, it is rich in omega-3 fatty acids that can provide a wealth of benefits to your health. Omega-3s are also an essential nutrient that all consumers must obtain via their diet. Going with a natural source is recommended to help you benefit from all of these.

Frequently Asked Questions About Astaxanthin

Q: Should I take astaxanthin?

A: There's plenty of research that supports the potential health benefits of astaxanthin to your health. In other words, chances are high that taking astaxanthin will help optimize your health.

Q: What is astaxanthin used for?

A: Astaxanthin is generally taken to help improve the antioxidant profile in your system as well as helping lower your risk of cardiovascular disease, among other things.

Q: What does astaxanthin do for the body?

A: Research has shown that astaxanthin may help manage diabetes, lower your risk of heart disease and cancer, and boost your immune system and antioxidant profile.[10]

Q: Is astaxanthin safe to take?

A: Yes, but this only applies to natural astaxanthin that comes from microalgae. Synthetic astaxanthin must be avoided.

Q: How do I take astaxanthin properly?

A: Astaxanthin supplements should be taken alongside foods rich in healthy fats to help improve absorption. This antioxidant may also be obtained naturally through seafood, such as wild-caught Alaskan salmon.

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Guillermo
Joined 2019-12-03 T 07:48:48
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According to a report by Dr. Mercola, astaxanthin is very beneficial for the health of the skin in general, since it helps in maintaining increases its elasticity and helps in preventing the increase in moisture level. Unlike topical ointments, astaxanthin is 550 times, so, it is based powerful UVB rays from overexposing to vitamin E to your skin, which protects your skin from damage. Helps restore intercellular communication and helps to reduce the risk of skin cancer. Helps to reduce the risk of inflammation in cardiovascular system. Helps to reduce the risk of inflammation in cardiovascular system. In addition to fighting inflammation, astaxanthin has also been shown to provide benefits protecting against cancer and preventing pain. Astaxanthin is a powerful natural ingredient that can help you maintain healthy skin, reduce the risk of inflammation, and protect against cancer and pain.

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Guillermo
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Astaxanthin Much is evident in which of eight oxygen and an effective scavenger of superoxide actor. Analysis of the technical radical-scavenging activity of the is more potent than vitamin E. Astaxanthin [11].

Astaxanthin, a naturally occurring carotenoid, has been studied for its potential health benefits. Astaxanthin experiences a variety of inflammation and oxidative stress in human exercise trials, decreased unsaturated and saturated fatty acids, and reduced the production of inflammatory cytokines. Astaxanthin has been shown to have anti-inflammatory effects in a number of studies. Astaxanthin has also been shown to have antioxidant properties. Astaxanthin has been shown to have anti-inflammatory properties. Astaxanthin has

Leahoz
Joined On 2/2/2020 9:55:19 AM
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Great supplement! I have been using Astaxanthin for 1.5 years. No more wearing glasses to read. However, in Aussieland it is expensive, but IMHO well worth it. Cheers.

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skupe59
Joined On 5/2/2009 7:28:21 AM
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I love this stuff and have been taking it continuously since 2007, on the day I found out about it. One thing the article doesn't mention is that astaxanthin is good for your eyes and could be good for eye diseases like cataracts and glaucoma. This hasn't been proven but I'll be my own guinea pig. I call it my sun tan lotion in a capsule as no lotion is usually needed. If I had kids, I would start them taking it as soon as they turn 10 so they don't have to use the harmful sun tan lotion either.

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Formaggio
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"One thing the article doesn't mention is that astaxanthin is good for your eyes and could be good for eye diseases like cataracts and glaucoma." It does.

Mark as Spam | Posted On 8/19/2022 4:25:41 AM
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Mercola_Fan
Joined On 1/11/2009 12:28:23 AM
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It mentions visual benefits. Maybe you're not taking enough. :)

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CooperJB
Joined On 6/19/2006 2:58:38 PM
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ONE SUBJECT THAT I NEAR NEVER READ ABOUT IS WHAT OTHER SUPPLEMENTS CAN ONE TAKE AT THE SAME TIME / DAY. So that they don't react negatively>>> even many of the Naturopaths are not fully aware but often say its OK. ??? I was recently told that a brand of the supps I was to take was Soy and GMO free inquisitive me wrote to the business and disappointingly their reply was YES SOY YES GMO??? And this is a well known respected Australian Supplement brand So does anyone know the answer OR know if there is a website to read up on the subject of supplements to NOT take at the same time???? Thank you freedom of choice freedomofchoice

Reply | Mark as Spam | Posted On 8/19/2022 2:54:59 AM
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BlueQuasilica
Joined On 1/9/2016 9:34:17 AM
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Hi CooperJB, good day. As far as I know, Dr. Mercola has already written an article about the timing and intake of different supplements. I've included two infographic links in case you need to download it. i.imgur.com/tc6khU5.jpg AND i.imgur.com/nOUTBic.jpg I hope that helped out your inquiry.

Mark as Spam | Posted On 8/19/2022 5:35:45 AM
Like Dislike

skupe59
Joined On 5/2/2009 7:28:21 AM
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I know in nutrition school I learned almost nothing about supplements. The same would go for medical schools. I would say No GMO and No Soy or Cellulose caps. When I find bovine gelatin caps, I grab them.

Mark as Spam | Posted On 8/19/2022 11:51:12 AM
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Imoberoi
Joined On 3/7/2008 10:08:01 PM
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Astaxanthin does protect one front UV rays but what is the safe UV index value if one is not taking astaxanthin and still goes in sun?

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