



SKIN *credible*

**MICRONEEDLING
WITH
GROWTH FACTORS**

IMPROVE

- Healing -
- Skin rejuvenation & repair -
- Antioxidant & nutrient retention -
- Circulation -
- Collagen Renewal -
- Elastin Synthesis -

REDUCE

- Appearance of scarring -
- Fine Lines and Wrinkles -
- Inflammation and Irritation -
- Mild to moderate acne -
- Broken Capillaries -
- Symptoms of Rosacea -

WHAT IS MICRONEEDLING WITH GROWTH FACTORS?

Traditional Microneedling repurposes the skin's natural reparative dynamics, replicating the body's natural healing process and initiating new collagen production. Microneedling with Growth Factors builds on that foundation offering new collagen generation as well providing advanced skin rejuvenation and restoration through the introduction of active peptides, growth factors, and proteins into the skin.

Growth factors are specialised, naturally-occurring proteins that stimulate cellular division, increasing the rate at which cells grow and encouraging new blood vessel formation. They are found naturally in the body's cells helping to stimulate the skin's own renewal mechanisms, promoting the elimination of toxins and naturally balancing the skin.

During the treatment process, a serum containing human growth factors is topically introduced into the skin via the microscopic channels created by the microneedling device. When introduced at the beginning of the restorative process triggered by the microneedling device, human growth factor serum stimulates fibroblast growth, aids in cell replication, collagen synthesis, matrix remodeling and tissue repair as well as promoting healing and scar reduction.

For patients seeking a simple, clinically-proven treatment designed to reduce the visibility of acne scars, fine lines, and wrinkles; diminish hyperpigmentation and improve skin tone and texture; Microneedling with Growth Factors offers the latest in 21st century aesthetic technology.



BEFORE



4 WEEKS



6 WEEKS



8 WEEKS

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WHAT ARE GROWTH FACTORS?

Growth factors (GFs) are specialised proteins that act as chemical messengers. Skincredible uses AQ Skin Solutions, Inc.'s patented AQ Recovery Serum - a pharmaceutical grade product containing the highest concentration of natural Human Growth Factors (TGF-Beta, GM-CSF, & PDGF), cytokines and interleukins on the market.

The Growth Factors present in AQ Recovery Serum are composed of extensive signalling pathways between the dermal and epidermal layers of the skin. These GFs are found naturally in the body's cells including fibroblasts, which are responsible for the synthesis of the ECM (the "extracellular matrix" - helping to provide your skin with elasticity and strength) and collagen.

Closely related to GFs are cytokines, which are associated with the immune system and play a key role in the management of inflammation for wound healing and skin regeneration. GFs and cytokines are derived from macrophages (specialized cells that detect and destroy bacteria and damage tissue), epidermal keratinocytes (the main type of cells found in the skin), and fibroblasts. Both help to support healthy skin structure and function by promoting cell growth, organising the ECM and promoting cell recovery.

Growth Factors have a variety of natural properties and benefits including:

- Aiding in stimulating cellular division -
- Increasing the rate at which cells grow -
- Encouraging new blood vessel formation -
- Stimulating the skin's renewal mechanism -
- Promoting the elimination of toxins -
- Regulating cell homeostasis -
- Balancing the skin -
- Anti-inflammatory -
- Non-hormonal (aka "Paracrine") -
- Does not enter bloodstream -

WHY USE GROWTH FACTORS IN SKIN CARE?

With age, our skin loses its ability to naturally heal itself due to decreased collagen production and the loss of stored antioxidants in the skin. As a result, the skin loses its elasticity slowly resulting in sagging skin and baggy skin, increasing the appearance of new lines and wrinkles.

The topical application of Growth Factors has been clinically proven to help reverse photo-damaged, collagen starved skin. When used in tandem with Microneedling, AQ Recovery Serum can supplement the diminished production of Growth Factors found within damaged skin. The treatment can also assist in restoring the dermis and epidermis to a more youthful state by increasing collagen, elastin, and hydration.

Skin Based Growth Factors and Cytokines have been clinically shown to:

- Diminish fine lines and wrinkles -
- Fade and reduce age spots -
- Reduce the appearance of "crow's feet" -
- Repair sun-related damage -
- Lighten dark circles under eyes -
- Firm, tighten and lift the skin -
- Reduce the appearance of "neck rings" -
- Moisturize -
- Reduce mild to moderate acne -
- Reduce symptoms of rosacea -
- Reduce the appearance of scarring -
- Reduce the appearance of stretch marks -

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HUMAN GROWTH FACTORS AND PLANT-BASED GROWTH FACTORS?

Many growth factor-based serums available on the market, both professionally and for consumers, utilize plant derived growth factors. Because growth factors act in a very selective lock and key manner, plant derived growth factors are highly inefficient and often ineffective for regulating cellular activity within human cells.

Plants produce growth factors conducive to their biological functions which are irreconcilable with human biology. While many product manufacturers claim a variety of benefits from plant derived growth factors, in reality, the incompatibility between plant and human biology severely limits any possible positive effects from the topical introduction of plant based growth factors into a skin product and/or serum.



HOW DOES HUMAN GROWTH FACTOR COMPARE TO PLATELET RICH PLASMA (PRP)?

Often marketed as the "Vampire Facial," Microneedling with platelet rich plasma (or "PRP") has been growing in popularity in recent years. In the early 1990s, PRP was recognized as a breakthrough in the field of tissue engineering and cellular therapy for its biologic potential to stimulate bone and soft tissue healing. Since then, the autogenous preparation of concentrated platelets has been utilized in a variety of areas including aesthetic medicine.

While PRP has exhibited clinical potential within many fields of medicine of the past couple of decades, its use dermatologically remains limited and controversial. The concern regarding the use of PRP is rooted in the inconsistency of human blood. The contents of human blood vary day by day, often leading to varied and unpredictable results. Additionally, while blood is autogenous (i.e. it comes directly from the body), there is still a possibility of contamination, especially if each blood draw is not being tested for infections.

The use, and appeal, of PRP in aesthetic medicine depends entirely on the number and quality of growth factors available in the plasma. Unfortunately, the PRP process does not allow the targeting of specific growth factors. With these limitations in mind, AQ Skin Solutions Inc. developed a patented growth factor technology, designed to both yield significantly more concentrated growth factors than PRP and allow the production of specialized combinations of growth factors, making them more targeted to specific indications (such as skin repair).

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WHAT SHOULD I DO BEFORE THE TREATMENT?

Before any Microneedling with Growth Factors treatment, patients should observe the following pre-treatment instructions and warnings.

- Avoid Accutane for a period of no less than 6 months.
- Avoid retinoids, topical antibiotics, exfoliants, hydroquinone, sunburn, and benzoyl peroxide three (3) days prior to procedure.
- Avoid IPL/Laser treatments for the seven (7) days prior to treatment.
- Avoid waxing, depilatory creams or electrolysis within five to seven (5 - 7) days of treatment.
- Avoid acids or defoliants that may be drying or irritating to the skin (such as alpha hydroxyl acid (AHA) beta hydroxyl acids (BHA), exfoliating masks, hydroquinone, or benzoyl peroxide acne products).
- DO NOT shave the day of the procedure.
- Report to your Skincredible provider prior to treatment any significant changes in your skin recently including any breakdown of skin or excess dryness or sunburn.
- Make sure your skin is clean without lotion, oil, makeup, deodorant, powder, perfume or sunscreen.
- If you have a history of cold sores, an Antiviral agent is recommended for two (2) days prior to treatment (including the day of treatment).

If you are suffering from the following we recommended waiting to utilize the Microneedling with Growth Factors treatment until symptoms subside.

- Active cold sores
- Herpes simplex,
- Warts in the area to be treated
- Open sores
- Sunburned
- Pregnancy
- Dermatitis
- Inflammatory Rosacea
- Excessively sensitive skin in the treatment area

WHAT SHOULD I DO AFTER THE TREATMENT?

Immediately after the Microneedling procedure, your Skincredible provider may apply moisturizer and sunscreen topically. Following treatment it is important to abide by the following instructions to optimize the treatment results and to avoid any complications:

- Do not take any anti-inflammatory medications such as ibuprofen, Motrin or Advil. These agents will interfere with the natural inflammatory process that is critical and responsible for your skin rejuvenation. In the event of soreness, use only Tylenol as directed by your Skincredible provider.
- Avoid sun tanning and prolonged exposure to direct sunlight. When exposed to sun, always use sunscreen SPF30 or above. You may clean your face with a gentle cleanser before bed.
- Redness or sensitivity may be present after the treatment and may last for up to 48 hours.
- Do not pick or scratch at treated skin but instead keep moisturized.
- Avoid strenuous exercise or sweating for 24 hours due to open pores.
- Treat skin gently, washing with a gentle cleanser, cool water, using hands only and pat dry no earlier than 4 hours after treatment.
- You may use cool compresses after treatment if excessive discomfort, burning, redness, or swelling persists.
- You may restart the use of mineral makeup after 24 hours following treatment.
- You may restart your regular skin care regimen 48 hours following treatment and any Retin A treatments 72 hours following treatment

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT AFTER THE TREATMENT?

DAY 1

On the day following treatment you may continue to be red - though generally far less than the day of treatment - and may have some slight sensitivity.

You may clean your face as usual and apply makeup, lotions and other topical products as usual. Stay away from exfoliants or glycolic acids that may be present in certain cleansers as these can make your skin very dry after the procedure. Be sure to use an approved sunscreen - SPF 30 or greater!

DAY 2-7

Within two (2) days following treatment, you will notice skin dryness and flaking. This is due to an increased turnover of skin cells. During this period, you may apply your regular skin moisturizer. Follow any instructions given to you by your Skincredible provider.

If treated around the eyes, you may have a little micro bruising that may exist for three or four days. This can easily be covered with makeup.

Two (2) to three (3) days following treatment your skin will begin shedding. These layers of skin would regularly shed within a week's time, but the deliberate agitation of microneedling brings this skin to the surface sooner. While this is temporary, your skin may shed and be drier than usual during the healing process. You may resume your use of regular skin care products once your skin is no longer irritated.

Many patients will see improvement in their skin as early as 48 hours following the treatment.

DAY 7+

By a week after treatment, a Patient may expect to be fully recovered and will notice a significant improvement in the smoothness and radiance of their skin.

Over the course of multiple Microneedling with Growth Factors treatments, patients should continue to take extra care with sun protection every day and be sure to reapply every 2 hours if outdoors.

HOW LONG DOES THE TREATMENT TAKE?

A single treatment session generally takes 20 to 30 minutes. Patients will be asked to arrive at the office 30 minutes prior to their

HOW MANY TREATMENTS WILL I NEED?

The number of treatments necessary can depend on a variety of factors including a patient's treatment history with microneedling and skin resurfacing treatments, the timing between treatments, the goals of the patient and the general overall health of the patient's skin.

Generally, most patients begin with a series of 3 to 5 treatments spaced 4 to 6 weeks apart. Following the initial series of treatments, patients often schedule follow-up treatments every 3 to 6 months based upon the recommendations of their Skincredible provider.

**If you have any additional questions regarding
Microneedling with Growth Factors
please feel free to contact the Front Desk at**

(610) 525-3677 or FrontDesk@skincredible.com

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