



Grape Seed Extract (*Vitix vinifera*) seed/skin extract

Common Indications:

- Antioxidant and stabilizes mast cells
- Vascular health, blood flow, reduced capillary fragility, normalizes vascular permeability
- Reduces platelet aggregation
- Reduces colon cancer risk and presents apoptotic effect on cancer cells

General Comments:

Grape seed and skin extract contain proanthocyanidins derived from flavonoids. Proanthocyanidins are present in fresh grapes, juice, red wine, and other darkly pigmented fruits such as cranberry, blackcurrant, and elderberry. An eight ounce serving of grape juice averages 124 milligrams proanthocyanidins, whereas a five ounce serving of red wine averages 91 milligrams.

Benefits & Mechanism of Action:

Procyanidins found in grape seed extract have been shown to beneficially impact the inflammatory processes through reduction of IL-6 and MCP-1 and enhancing the production of adiponectin which is known to optimize the insulin response mechanism. This results in an overall anti-inflammatory effect.¹ This would obviously be beneficial to cardiovascular health and has been shown to reduce platelet aggregation and reduce oxidation of LDL.¹²⁻¹³ Polyphenols from grape seed have also been shown to lower blood pressure in patient with Metabolic Syndrome.¹⁴

Proanthocyanidins have been reported to inhibit the release of mediators of inflammation, such as histamine and prostaglandins.^{3,6} Proanthocyanidins inhibit the destruction of collagen through its protective action on 1-antitripsin. This action allows grape seed extracts to reduce capillary fragility. Proanthocyanidins neutralize lipid peroxidation damage to cell membranes through their free radical activity.

This dampening of the inflammatory process was shown to benefit risk of Alzheimers by Wang, reducing amyloid-beta deposition and microglia activation.²³

Grape seed extract was shown to inhibit in vitro and in vivo growth of human colorectal carcinoma cells. GSE causes a significant dose and time dependent inhibition of cell growth with concomitant increase in cell death. GSE induced G1 phase cell cycle arrest. GSE-induced cell death was apoptotic and accompanied by caspase-3 activation. GSE inhibited cell proliferation but increased apoptotic cell death in tumors.¹⁹

Other benefits of GSE in addressing cancer include inducing mitochondria-associated apoptosis in human acute myeloid leukemia and protection of adriamycin-treated hepatocytes against oxidative damage.²⁰⁻²¹

DOSE:

- 25-100mg, 1-3 times a day of a standardized extract

STANDARDIZATION:

- Standardized to contain 40-80% proanthocyanidins or a procyanidolic value of not less than 95 and 90% total phenols.

CAUTIONS & SIDE EFFECTS:

- Grape seed extract has been reported to be safe in recommended doses.
- Not be used if there is an allergy to any component of this dietary supplement or to grapes.

References:

ANTI-INFLAMMATORY & GENERAL

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