

PRESS RELEASE

TO THE EDITOR

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NATURAL ASTAXANTHIN DETECTED IN THE IRIS/CILIARY BODY OF THE EYE

Burlington, NJ, January 6, 2009 – Fuji Health Science, Inc. In a new study, natural astaxanthin extract (AstaREAL®) derived from *Haematococcus* microalgae was detected in the iris/ciliary body of New Zealand Albino (NZW) Rabbit Eyes 24 hours after ingestion.

Astaxanthin has been reported to have many benefits in the eye. Several human clinical studies reported the alleviation of eye fatigue (by improving accommodation function) in visual display terminal (VDT) workers after oral supplementation. However, up to now there has been no intraocular kinetic information available. In collaboration between the Ophthalmology Department of Kanazawa Medical University, Japan, and Fuji Chemical Industry, Japan, researchers investigated the ocular and blood serum levels of astaxanthin in 24 NZW albino rabbits. After administering a 100 mg/kg single oral dose, astaxanthin was determined by careful extraction followed by HPLC analysis over a period of 168 hours. According to the astaxanthin detection system, the time taken to reach maximum presence (Tmax) in serum and iris/ciliary body was 9 hours (at Cmax 61.3 ng/mL) and 24 hours (at Cmax 79.3) respectively. In other human studies with oral intake of astaxanthin, the Tmax in serum ranged between 9 and 12 hours.

The intraocular penetration kinetics could have a similar pattern to humans but further study is necessary. This study adds to the growing body of science supporting astaxanthin's benefits for eye fatigue caused by VDT use.

AstaREAL is a registered trademark of Fuji Chemical Industry Co., Ltd. Fuji is the world leader in the production and research of natural astaxanthin with state of the art and fully enclosed cultivation facilities in Hawaii and Sweden. For information: contact@fujihealthscience.com

References

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