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The Grape Antioxidant Resveratrol for Skin Disorders: *Promise, Prospects, and Challenges*

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Abstract

Resveratrol, a phytoalexin antioxidant found in red grapes, has been shown to have both chemopreventive and therapeutic effects against many diseases and disorders, including those of the skin. Studies have shown protective effects of resveratrol against ultraviolet radiation mediated oxidative stress and cutaneous damages including skin cancer. Because many of the skin conditions stem from ultraviolet radiation and oxidative stress, this antioxidant appears to have promise and prospects against a wide range of cutaneous disorders including skin aging and skin cancers. However, there are a few roadblocks in the way of this promising agent regarding its translation from *the bench to the bedside*. This review discusses the promise and prospects of resveratrol in the management of skin disorders and the associated challenges.

Keywords

Resveratrol; Skin; Ultraviolet; Antioxidant

Introduction

The skin is the body's largest organ, and is its foremost line of defense against disease. Because of this importance, anything that compromises the skin's integrity can be detrimental to the overall health of the individual. Also, since the skin is so easily seen by others, even non-life-threatening disorders can cause significant social problems, which can be almost as devastating to those affected with the disease. Most skin disorders and diseases have a complex set of processes responsible for their inception, which can be genetic and/or environmental, and the importance of each factor is different for every disease. However, exposure to solar ultraviolet (UV) radiation is a very important factor in the pathogenesis of many skin disorders, including aging and cancer [1]. UV light can directly cause DNA damage, as well as start a cascade of oxidative stress and related signaling leading to mutation and irreparable damages to the cells. For this reason, it is important to develop novel approaches aimed at fighting the stresses and insults that skin comes into contact with every day, as well as managing the cutaneous disorders that are developed.

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Resveratrol, a trihydroxy derivative of stilbene (3,5,4'-trihydroxystilbene) (Fig. 1), is a naturally occurring phytoalexin antioxidant present in grapes, berries, peanuts and red wine [2]. *Trans*-resveratrol is found in many plants, and is produced as a form of defense against harmful environmental stimuli, such as a fungus or infection. The earliest work on resveratrol was done examining its effects on cardiovascular health and heart disease. Researchers noticed that the people in France had a much lower incidence of coronary heart diseases than populations in other countries, despite their high saturated fat intake. This was attributed to an increased red wine intake by the French population and was termed the "French Paradox" by Renaud and Lorgeril in 1992 [3]. Although earlier work was done examining the effects of resveratrol on cardiovascular disease, much of the recent research done with this antioxidant has been in the areas of cancer chemoprevention and treatment, inflammation, and oxidative stress [4–16].

Skin and Skin Disorders

The skin is made up of three main layers: the hypodermis, the dermis and the epidermis [17]. The hypodermis is the deepest section of skin, and is primarily a place of connection and fat storage. The dermis contains most of the connective tissues of the skin, as well as nerve endings, sweat glands, and hair follicles. The primary function of the epidermis is to provide a weather- and water-proof layer to protect the body. The epidermis is made up mostly of keratinocytes, but also contains melanocytes, Merkel cells, and Langerhans cells [17,18]. Because of the large amount of cells and structures contained within the skin, as well as it being the first line of defense, it is not surprising that many different things can go wrong and cause a variety of skin diseases. However, skin cancer is the most important cutaneous condition that needs aggressive research and new approaches for its management.

Skin cancer is estimated to affect one out of every seven Americans each year, making it the most prevalent form of cancer [19,20]. Light skin color and excessive exposure to solar UV radiation have been identified as major risk factors in developing this disease. The two most frequent types of skin cancer, collectively known as non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC), are Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC) and Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC). More than a million new cases of non-melanoma skin cancers are diagnosed annually in the United States, with the number increasing every year [21,22]. BCC is the most common form of NMSC, and is responsible for about 80% of new cases every year [23], while SCC presents as about 16% of new NMSC cases annually. In addition to NMSC, it is estimated that about 68,130 new cases of malignant melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer, will be diagnosed in the United States this year, with an estimated 8,700 deaths [22]. Another disturbing fact about skin cancer comes from some epidemiological observations showing an increased risk of other lethal cancer types in individuals who have a history of skin cancer [24–27]. This fact combined with the high incidence of skin cancer provides a great impetus for finding new approaches for treating and preventing skin cancer.

Oxidative Stress and Antioxidants in the Skin

In normal, unstressed cells, there is a constant production of reactive oxygen from the mitochondria, which is balanced by the production of antioxidant enzymes in the cell, such as superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase, and glutathione peroxidase [28]. When a cell comes under stress, this balance is interrupted, and the reactive oxygen species can overwhelm the cells and lead to a change in normal cellular behaviors [29,30]. Oxidative stress can be generated by a variety of factors, including cigarette smoke, extreme temperature change, and exposure to UV radiation [31–33]. Exposure to UV radiation is one of the most important factors in many skin disorders and diseases, including aging and cancer [1,34–39]. There are three main types of UV radiation; UVA, UVB, and UVC [1].

UVA is the longest wavelength and is thought to be responsible for many skin conditions including skin aging and skin carcinogenesis [40,41]. UVB, a mid-range wavelength, is thought to contribute mostly to the development of skin cancer, although it has been shown to play a role in aging and other skin damage [1,42]. UVC is the shortest wavelength that does not usually penetrate the atmosphere. However, UVC can also play a role in mutagenesis by imparting DNA damage [1]. In many cases, the visible signs of skin aging, such as wrinkling, dryness, and discoloration, are caused by or exacerbated by UV exposure [34,35,43]. Additionally, other skin conditions that can result from chronic sun and UV exposure, such as actinic keratosis, have been linked with increasing an individual's risk of skin cancer, [44] which can also be induced by UV exposure as well. UV radiation can also cause oxidative stress in skin cells, which is thought to be another contributor to skin disease and skin carcinogenesis [1,45].

Because of the critical role of oxidative stress in cancer and other cutaneous conditions [46], studies have attempted to assess if exogenous antioxidants can have preventive and/or therapeutic effects against skin cancers, especially since the skin consistently encounters factors that can cause oxidative stress. Obviously, there are many antioxidants that have been studied with varying success rates. Several antioxidants, including vitamins C, E, and the green tea polyphenol (–)-epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG) [47–51], have been shown to possess protective effects against cutaneous disorders. As described below, a number of studies have shown that resveratrol also possesses promise against certain cutaneous pathologies, including skin cancer, in preventive as well as in therapeutic settings.

Antioxidant Resveratrol in Disease Management

Resveratrol was initially found to have antioxidant abilities and to be protective against cardiovascular disease [52–54]. The cancer chemopreventive properties of resveratrol were first demonstrated when it was found to possess chemopreventive activity against all the three major stages of carcinogenesis i.e. initiation, promotion and progression [12]. Further, resveratrol has been shown to have low toxicity and limited side effects, two much sought-after properties in therapeutic settings, especially since a wide range of available drugs are toxic to normal cells. It has also been suggested that this specificity may be due to pro-oxidant activities of resveratrol when exposed to the elevated copper levels in cancer cells [55]. Because of these properties, several clinical trials were initiated with this agent, including one recently completed trial on melanoma [56]. Much of the recently published data on resveratrol in humans has been summarized in Table 1. As shown, most of the studies are focused on determining the safety, pharmacokinetics, and dosing, and not much has been done studying effects against specific cancers. It is expected that as these initial trials are finished up and some of the challenges discussed later in this review are addressed, many more clinical trials will be initiated and conducted to study the potential of resveratrol against many disease conditions including cancers.

As described above, the first and landmark study regarding the chemopreventive effects of resveratrol was done by Jang and colleagues [12]. In this study, resveratrol was found to i) act as an antioxidant and antimutagen, ii) induce phase II drug-metabolizing enzymes (anti-initiation activity), iii) mediate anti-inflammatory effects, iv) inhibit cyclooxygenase and hydroperoxidase functions (antipromotion activity), and v) induce human promyelocytic leukemia cell differentiation (antipromotion activity). In addition, resveratrol also inhibited i) the development of preneoplastic lesions in carcinogen-treated mouse mammary glands in culture, and ii) tumorigenesis in a chemically-induced skin carcinogenesis mouse model [12]. Since the appearance of this study in the year 1997, evidence accumulated from a plethora of studies, both *in vitro* and *in vivo*, have suggested that resveratrol could be

developed as a strong chemopreventive and/or therapeutic agent for the management of cancer [2,5,12–15,57–62].

Resveratrol and Skin Diseases: *In Vitro Studies*

Because resveratrol has strong antioxidant properties, and oxidative stress is believed to be a critical factor in a variety of cutaneous conditions including skin cancers [1,48,63], a number of *in vitro* studies have been done to determine the anti-proliferative effects as well as photo-protective effects of resveratrol. Table 2 summarizes some of these *in vitro* studies. In two studies from this laboratory, we demonstrated that resveratrol, via modulating cyclin kinase inhibitor (cki)-cyclin-cyclin dependent kinase (cdk) network [15] and retinoblastoma (pRb)-E2F/DP machinery [14], resulted in a G1-phase arrest of the cell cycle and apoptosis of human epidermoid carcinoma (A431) cells. Another *in vitro* study demonstrated that resveratrol was able to induce apoptosis in two human melanoma cell lines [64]. Yang and colleagues showed that resveratrol inhibits APE/Ref-1 and significantly decreases AP-1/JunD, MMP-1, Bcl-2, and iNOS protein levels in melanoma cells [16]. Since, in this study, nitric oxide was found to initiate progression of human melanoma via a feedback loop mediated by apurinic/apyrimidinic endonuclease-1/redox factor-1, the authors suggested that resveratrol could be an appropriate choice for combining with other compounds that develop resistance by up-regulation of these molecules [16]. This group also demonstrated that resveratrol inhibited anchorage-independent growth of melanoma cell lines [65]. Further, the authors also noted that following treatment with resveratrol, the cells appeared to act more “normal”, as if resveratrol had caused the cells to differentiate. Resveratrol did not have any cytotoxic effects on the lines tested, but did change the morphology of the cells, as well as elevate the MHC class I antigen and Fas expression levels, and decreased AP-1 binding and transcriptional activities [65]. It was also found that resveratrol decreased intracellular reactive oxygen species in melanoma cells. In another study, Osmond and colleagues showed that resveratrol significantly decreased the viability of melanoma cell lines (DM738 and DM443) without similar effects in fibroblast cells [66]. Further, resveratrol significantly enhanced the cytotoxicity of temozolomide in melanoma cells [66].

In an *in vitro study*, we have also shown that resveratrol treatment blocked UVB-mediated activation of NF- κ B pathway in the normal human epidermal keratinocytes (NHEK), in a dose- as well as time- dependent fashion [13]. In a study done by Liu and colleagues, it was shown that resveratrol protects human HaCaT keratinocytes from UVA-induced oxidative stress damage by downregulating Keap1 expression [67]. Recently, in another study it was found that there are specific polyphenol receptor sites in the skin that bind resveratrol, which then exert protective effects against the nitric oxide free radical donor sodium nitroprusside (SNP) [68]. To determine the receptor binding, the authors treated human skin tissue sections with [3 H]-resveratrol followed by studying localization of signals. A significant binding of resveratrol was seen in the epidermis, with some binding in the dermis. The study also determined that the resveratrol binding site was also present *in vitro*, in HaCaT cells, an immortalized human keratinocyte cell line [68]. This study gives promise to the notion that skin diseases and cancers can be treated with resveratrol because of the resveratrol-specific binding sites in the skin.

Resveratrol and Skin Diseases: *In Vivo Studies*

A few *in vivo* studies have also evaluated the potential of resveratrol for skin conditions. Some of these studies have been summarized in Table 3.

In a study from this laboratory, we have shown that a topical application of resveratrol to SKH-1 hairless mice results in significant inhibitions of UVB-mediated increases in (i) skin edema, (ii) inflammation, (iii) cyclooxygenase (COX) and ornithine decarboxylase (ODC)

induction, and (iv) generation of hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) and lipid peroxidation, in the skin [57]. In another study [8], we determined the photoprotective effects of resveratrol against multiple UVB exposure mediated damages to the skin of SKH-1 hairless mouse. Our data demonstrated that a topical pre-application of resveratrol ($10 \mu\text{ mole}/0.2 \text{ ml}/\text{mouse}$) 30 minutes prior to UVB-exposures ($180 \text{ mJ}/\text{cm}^2 \times 7$ exposures on alternate days) to mouse skin resulted in a significant decrease in UVB mediated increases i) in skin edema and hyperplasia, ii) infiltration of leukocytes into the epidermis and dermis, and iii) protein levels of PCNA in epidermis [8]. We also found that UVB-exposures to mouse skin resulted in significant i) increases in cdk-2, cdk-4, cdk-6 and cyclin D2 protein levels in epidermis; whereas, resveratrol pre-treatment significantly reversed these effects [8]. Interestingly, resveratrol pre-treatment was found to result in a further enhancement in UVB-exposure mediated increase in WAF1/p21 and p53 proteins [8]. Finally, we also found that repeated UVB exposures resulted in an upregulation of mitogen activated protein-kinase (MAPK) 1/2 and MAPK kinase (MEK)-1; whereas topical application of resveratrol prior to UVB exposures significantly reversed the UVB-mediated responses in these proteins [8]. Taken together, this study suggested that the anti-proliferative effects of resveratrol might be mediated via modulation in i) cki-cyclin-cdk network, and ii) MAPK-pathway [8].

In a follow up study [6], we evaluated the involvement of IAP protein Survivin during the protective effects of resveratrol against multiple UVB exposure mediated damages in SKH-1 hairless mouse skin. The data from this study demonstrated that topical pre-treatment of resveratrol ($10 \mu\text{mol}$ in $200 \mu\text{l}$ acetone per mouse) resulted in significant inhibition of UVB exposure-mediated increases in i) cellular proliferations (Ki-67 immunostaining), ii) protein levels of epidermal cyclooxygenase (COX)-2 and ornithine decarboxylase (ODC), established markers of tumor promotion, iii) protein and mRNA levels of Survivin, and iv) phosphorylation of Survivin; in the skin of SKH-1 hairless mouse [6]. Resveratrol pre-treatment also resulted in i) reversal of UVB-mediated decrease of Smac/DIABLO, and ii) enhancement of UVB-mediated induction of apoptosis, in mouse skin [6]. Taken together, this study suggested that resveratrol imparts chemopreventive effects against UVB exposure-mediated damages in SKH-1 hairless mouse skin via inhibiting Survivin-pathway.

In another recent study [69], we evaluated the skin cancer chemopreventive effects of resveratrol in a photocarcinogenesis model of skin cancer. In this study, we employed a UVB initiation-promotion protocol in which the control mice were subjected to chronic UVB exposure ($180 \text{ mJ}/\text{cm}^2$, twice weekly, for 28 weeks). The experimental animals received either a pretreatment (30 min before each UVB) or post-treatment (5 min after UVB) of resveratrol (25 or $50 \mu\text{mole}/0.2 \text{ ml}$ acetone/mouse). The mice were followed for skin tumorigenesis and were killed at 24 h after the last UVB exposure, for further studies. Our data demonstrated that the topical application of skin with resveratrol (both pre- and post- treatment) resulted in a highly significant 1) inhibition in tumor incidence, and 2) delay in the onset of tumorigenesis [69]. Interestingly, the posttreatment of resveratrol was found to impart equal protection than the pretreatment; suggesting that resveratrol-mediated responses may not be sunscreen effects [69]. Further, our data also demonstrated a significant i) up-regulation of Survivin (both at protein- and mRNA- levels), ii) up-regulation of phospho-Survivin protein, and iii) down-regulation of proapoptotic Smac/DIABLO protein in skin tumors; whereas treatment with resveratrol resulted in the attenuation of these responses [69]. Our study also suggested that resveratrol enhanced apoptosis in UVB-exposure-mediated skin tumors [69]. This study, for the first time, suggested that i) resveratrol imparts strong chemopreventive effects against UVB exposure-mediated skin carcinogenesis, and ii) the chemopreventive effects of resveratrol may, at least in part, be mediated via modulations in Survivin and other associated events [69].

In a recent study, Kim *et al* demonstrated that oral administration of resveratrol to p53(+/-)/SKH-1 mice delayed UV-induced skin tumorigenesis and reduced the malignant conversion of benign papillomas to squamous cell carcinomas (SCCs)[70]. This study also showed the involvement of transforming growth factor-beta2 (TGF- β 2) signaling as a mechanism of resveratrol's action [70]. Kundu *et al* demonstrated that resveratrol pretreatment resulted in a decrease in the phosphorylation of extracellular signal-regulated protein kinase (ERK) as well as the catalytic activity of ERK and p38 MAPK (mitogen activated protein kinase) [71]. Further, resveratrol prevented TPA-induced DNA binding of activator protein-1 (AP-1) [71]. This study suggested that suppression of COX-2 expression by blocking the activation of MAPKs and AP-1 may represent possible molecular mechanisms responsible for previously reported anti-tumor promoting effects of resveratrol on mouse skin carcinogenesis.

Another *in vivo* study by Van Ginkel and colleagues demonstrated that peritumoral injection of resveratrol inhibited tumor growth in animal models of uveal melanoma via early mitochondrial dysfunction [72]. In this study, *in vitro* experiments with uveal melanoma cell lines showed that resveratrol causes apoptosis through a mitochondrial pathway i.e. decrease in mitochondrial membrane potential associated with an activation of caspase-3 [72]. The authors suggested that the nontoxic nature of the drug makes resveratrol an attractive candidate for the treatment of uveal melanoma [72].

Resveratrol and Skin Diseases: *Promises and Prospects*

As discussed above, some useful research with promising outcomes have been done regarding the effectiveness of resveratrol in photoprotection and against skin cancer. Based on these studies, it appears that the prospects are very bright for the possible use of resveratrol in skin diseases such as UV light mediated skin aging, skin cancer and other inflammatory and hyper-proliferative disorders. Based on studies in skin as well as other model systems, it appears that resveratrol may have prospects against pre-cancerous conditions such as actinic keratosis, as well as in enhancing the therapeutic ability of other drugs that are currently being used to treat skin disorders. For example, melanoma is one of the most drug-resistant cancers and the standard treatment options used for metastatic melanoma are interferon and dacarbazine, which have not shown a good therapeutic outcome. Some recent pre-clinical studies have suggested that polyphenols in combination with standard treatment options may be a viable approach for melanoma [73]. Further, Yang and colleagues demonstrated that resveratrol is an APE/Ref-1 inhibitor and enhances the therapeutic efficacy of dacarbazine for melanoma [74]. Thus, it appears that resveratrol may have bright prospects as an adjuvant therapy for melanoma management.

Another direction for researchers is to create resveratrol analogs with high efficacy against skin conditions. For example, Wong *et al* synthesized 4'-ester analogs of resveratrol via decarbonylative Heck coupling to assemble the protected stilbene core structure [75]. These analogs were then tested against melanoma cells [75]. It was found that four of the synthesized compounds are more effective in killing the melanoma cells than resveratrol, and that two out of four compounds had no cytotoxic effects on normal human dermal fibroblasts. Similarly, Moran and colleagues showed that fluorinated analogues of resveratrol had better growth inhibitory potential against melanoma cells [76]. Choi and colleagues synthesized an analogue of resveratrol, 5-(6-hydroxy-2-naphthyl)-1,2,3-benzenetriol (5HNB), which has a potent tyrosinase inhibitory activity [77]. This analogue did not show any cytotoxic effects on B16 melanoma; however, it was found to suppress melanin production by at least 50% [77]. The authors suggested that 5HNB might have skin-whitening effects as well as therapeutic potential for treating skin pigmentation disorders [77].

Resveratrol and Skin Diseases: *Challenges*

The biggest challenge that resveratrol researchers are currently facing is its poor *in vivo* bioavailability. In mammals, resveratrol is metabolized by the intestine and liver, mainly into glucuronides and sulfonates [78–83]. Resveratrol is very quickly metabolized, usually within 30–60 minutes after administration, although by changing some variables in how the drug is given, the peak plasma concentration can be delayed slightly. Because it is so quickly metabolized, it is difficult to use systemically as a drug treatment since it disappears from the plasma in such a short time [78]. There are several ways that researchers are trying to combat this problem to make resveratrol treatment viable against skin cancers and diseases.

The problem of quick metabolism of resveratrol and the impact it has on treatment of melanoma is easily illustrated by two studies conducted by Niles *et al* published in 2003 and 2006 [64,84]. The same group demonstrated *in vitro* that resveratrol induced apoptosis in melanoma cells [64]. The authors then studied the effects of resveratrol in A375 cells implanted tumors in athymic (nu/nu) mice [84]. Several modes of resveratrol administration used in this study were via drinking water, oral feeding, and slow-release pellet implants in tumor proximity [84]. Surprisingly, the authors did not find any effect of resveratrol against melanoma tumors *in vivo* [84]. The authors then administered a 75 mg/kg bolus dose via gavage to non-tumor bearing athymic mice to determine the plasma concentration of resveratrol 5 minutes following treatment. It was found that resveratrol levels were significantly reduced in plasma and it was converted into metabolites such as resveratrol glucuronide and piceatannol. Similar problems were also reported in other cancers, including leukemia [85], lung [86], and intestine [87]. Also, gastrointestinal problems have been reported in some patients who have taken resveratrol as part of clinical trials [88,89].

One possible way to circumvent the problem of bioavailability for skin disorders is to apply resveratrol topically to the skin. This would allow resveratrol to come into direct contact with the area of interest, without the side effects associated with systemic metabolism. Currently, several topical formulations of resveratrol are being developed. Hung and colleagues have studied several different solutions and hydrogel patches as delivery routes for resveratrol [90]. Hydrogel patches were successfully used in an effort to ensure that the resveratrol stayed at the site of interest, instead of diffusing into the body. Already, a number of resveratrol supplemented skin care products and cosmetics are available in the market. However, these products have not been rigorously tested for their claims. One problem with the resveratrol formulation used in cosmetics is that in order to allow resveratrol to incorporate into the creams or oils, usually microparticles are used that supposedly prolong its release into the skin. The drawback of this approach is that it also reduces the amount of resveratrol available for penetration into the skin. Recently, Kobierski and colleagues have tried using several different stabilizers and surfactants to produce a stable nanosuspension of resveratrol, and found that two of the non-ionic stabilizers they tested worked very well [91]. The nano-formulations can possibly improve resveratrol transport across the membrane as well as increase solubility. These nanosuspensions were also found to be stable at room temperature for at least 30 days [91].

As mentioned above, the use of resveratrol via systemic means is marred by its poor bioavailability due to its rapid metabolism in mammals. Therefore, efforts are needed to enhance its bioavailability in humans. We have earlier stressed on certain specific directions to combat this issue [92]. The possible scenarios for aggressive future research in this direction include, i) the strategy of combining resveratrol with agents that can inhibit the *in vivo* metabolism of resveratrol; ii) use of nanoparticle-mediated delivery; iii) synthesis and/or evaluation analogues of resveratrol with improved bioavailability; and iv) careful evaluation

of conjugated metabolites of resveratrol which may be deconjugated at the target organ to elicit a biological response.

Conclusion

Resveratrol is a promising antioxidant that is currently being investigated for a variety of disease conditions. It is not a surprise that resveratrol is also being evaluated for the management of skin disorders such as skin aging and skin cancers. Skin is particularly well suited for the use of this promising agent because the antioxidant properties of resveratrol work well against the high oxidative stress that skin cells come under frequently. Resveratrol has shown promise against skin diseases and even more prospects are yet to be explored. Indeed, concerted and multidisciplinary efforts are needed to take-up the challenges which hinder the prospects of this promising agent, in order to take it to the next level i.e. from '*bench-to-bedside*'.

Research Highlights

The review provides a discussion on the following:

- Background on skin, skin cancer, and oxidative stress
- Resveratrol's effects on skin disease *in vitro* and *in vivo*
- Promise and prospects of resveratrol in skin disorders
- Challenges of using resveratrol, and ways to combat them

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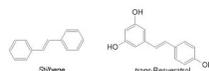


Figure 1.
Chemical Structures of Stilbene and Resveratrol (*Trans*-3,5,4'-trihydroxystilbene)

Table 1

Human studies with resveratrol

Aim of Study	Dose	N=	Result	Ref
Safety and Dose-Finding	0–5 g orally	10	Safe up to 5 g, highest levels in blood were 1.5 hours after intake. Urinary excretion of resveratrol was rapid, so a high dose of resveratrol maybe insufficient for chemopreventative properties.	[93]
Safety, pharmacokinetics, dosing with quercetin or alcohol	2000 mg twice daily with food	8	Resveratrol was well tolerated, but 6/8 subjects reported diarrhea	[89]
Effects of food on resveratrol absorption	400 mg	24	The extent of absorption wasn't affected by food, but the rate of resveratrol absorption was delayed in the presence of food.	[94]
Pharmacokinetics of multiple doses	0–150 mg, 6x/day	40	Repeated dosing was well tolerated, but still no high plasma concentrations of resveratrol. Bioavailability was higher after morning administration	[95]
Pharmacokinetics of repeated dosing versus age	200 mg, 3x/day	24	No difference in pharmacokinetics was seen in young versus old patients, and resveratrol was well tolerated by all.	[79]
Bioavailability from red wine consumption	246 µg-1.92 mg, in 3 different wines	25	The meal content did not affect resveratrol bioavailability. Only trace amounts of resveratrol were found (in only some subjects) 30 minutes after ingestion.	[96]
Absorption and metabolism	0.36 mg/kg (resveratrol only)	12	Urine excretion of glucuronide and sulfate conjugates. Peak concentrations of polyphenols does not appear high enough for chemopreventive activity	[97]
Pharmacokinetics and specific protein interactions	0.5, 1.0, 2.5, or 5.0 g	40	Resveratrol decreased levels of IGF-1 and IGFBP-3, which may contribute to chemoprevention. Resveratrol was safe but at higher doses caused some gastrointestinal symptoms. Plasma levels of metabolites exceeded those of resveratrol	[88]
Effects on pharmacologic doses of drug- and carcinogen-metabolizing enzymes	1 g	42	Resveratrol affects enzymes involved in cancer activation and detoxification, and therefore may provide some chemopreventative properties. However, resveratrol also altered drug efficacy.	[56]

Table 2*In Vitro* Studies on Resveratrol and Skin

Cells used	Brief description	Conclusion	Ref
NHEK	UVB induced skin damage	Chemo preventative properties of resveratrol may be due to blocked activation of NF- κ B	[13]
NHEK, normal dermal fibroblasts	Effect of Sirt1 agonists on matrix metalloproteases (MMPs)	Resveratrol inhibited MMP-9 expression and protected collagen from UV radiation degradation	[98]
A431 cells	Effect of resveratrol on the pRb-E2F/DP pathway	Resveratrol down regulated pRb-E2F/DP pathway members and caused a G0/G1 phase cell cycle arrest and then apoptosis.	[14]
A431	Investigate sensitization ability to UVB-induced cell death	Resveratrol inhibited UVB-induced proliferation via disruption of NF- κ B pathway	[99]
A431	Effects on apoptosis and growth	Regulates apoptosis through JAK/STAT pathway	[100]
A431	Investigate antiproliferative mechanism	Modulates MEK1 and AP-1 pathways	[101]
A431	Modulations in cyclindependent kinase (cdk) inhibitor-cyclin-cdk machinery	Causes cell apoptosis as a result of G(1)-phase cell cycle arrest	[15]
SK-mel28, A375	Effects on melanoma cell growth	Resveratrol inhibited growth of both cell lines, inhibiting A375 cell growth more	[64]
3PC, M 1/2, Ca3/7	Effect of phytochemicals on oxidative DNA damage	Resveratrol protected cells from oxidative DNA damage	[102]
HaCaT	UVA induced oxidative stress	Resveratrol protected cells from UVA induced oxidative stress and increased cell viability after UVA exposure	[67]
HaCaT	Effect of resveratrol pretreatment	Confirmed photoprotective properties of resveratrol, found caspase-3 and -8 were decreased in pretreated cells	[103]
HaCaT	Effect of resveratrol on levels of p66Shc	Resveratrol induces ERK1/2 and p66Shc-Ser36 phosphorylation, as well as AKT dephosphorylation	[104]
c83-2c	Determine if levels of APE/Ref-1 are increased in melanoma, and can be exploited by resveratrol	Resveratrol inhibited APE/Ref-1 actions in the cell and increased sensitivity to dacarbazine treatment	[74]

Table 3*In Vivo* Studies on Resveratrol and Skin

Animal	Brief description	Result	Ref
SKH-1 mice	UVB mediated skin damage	Resveratrol decreased leukocyte infiltration, bi-fold skin thickness, and hyperplasia	[8]
SKH-1 mice	UVB exposure damage	Resveratrol decreased bi-fold skin thickness, skin edema, and inhibited markers of tumor progression	[57]
p53(+/-)/SKH-1 mice	UV induced skin tumorigenesis	Resveratrol delayed UV induced tumorigenesis and transformation of benign papillomas to Squamous cell carcinomas	[105]
SKH-1 mice	UVB radiation-mediated skin tumorigenesis	Resveratrol reduced the incidence of tumors and delayed tumorigenesis	[69]
CD-1 mice	Chemopreventative activity of Resveratrol	Resveratrol reduced tumor incidence by at least 50%	[12]
CD-1 mice	Anti-cancer activity of 4 wine polyphenols	Trans-resveratrol reduced the amount of DMBA-induced skin tumors and was absorbed more effectively than the other polyphenols	[106]
syngeneic C57BL/6N mice	Effects of polyphenols on B16-BL6 melanoma cells	Resveratrol (injected) inhibited the growth of B16-BL6 cells	[107]
C57BL/6J mice, Wistar rats, ESD NZW rabbits	Bioavailability of resveratrol and its effect on tumor growth	Oral resveratrol did not inhibit growth of B16M cells	[108]
SENCAR mice	Resveratrol combination treatment of DMBA-induced skin cancer	Resveratrol showed a greater effect on chemopreventive markers when used in combination with other phytochemicals than when used alone	[109]
B16 cells in mice	Chemopreventative effects of Resveratrol on resistant melanoma cells	Resveratrol induced apoptosis in B16 cells after an artificial arrest of the G(1) phase of the cell cycle was imposed	[110]
C918 and Mum2b cells in athymic nu/nu mice	Effect of resveratrol against uveal melanoma tumor growth	Peritumoral injection of resveratrol had better effects than systemic, oral administration. Resveratrol induces	[72]
SKH-1 mice	Assess the involvement of Survivin in UVB-mediated skin cancer induction	Resveratrol inhibited UVB-mediated skin cancer development by inhibition of Survivin and associated apoptotic proteins	[6]
Swiss albino mice	Assess chemopreventive potential against DMBA-induced skin carcinogenesis	Resveratrol delayed tumor onset, reduced tumor number, regulated apoptosis and cell survival, likely through the PI3k/AKT pathway	[111]
Swiss albino mice	Assess potential against DMBA-induced skin carcinogenesis	Resveratrol induces apoptosis through p53 activity	[112]
C3H/HeN and C3H/HeJ mice	Effect of resveratrol on DMBA-induced skin carcinogenesis and TLR4 interaction	Resveratrol inhibited angiogenesis and tumor size better in TLR4-competent mice	[113]
SirT1-null mice	Chemopreventative effects in SirT1-null mice	Topically applied resveratrol reduced tumorigenesis more effectively in normal SirT1 genotype mice.	[114]