Melatonin

Discussion

Effect on Sleep Patterns Melatonin is best known for its ability to help regulate sleep patterns and promote a restful night’s sleep. Research indicates that low levels of melatonin may be a frequent cause of insomnia in the elderly. A review of several studies suggests that melatonin supplementation can be helpful in inducing and maintaining sleep in patients suffering from insomnia, particularly when the pineal glands own production is very low. Additionally, individuals who have unusual work hours, such as night shift workers, or people experiencing jet lag, in particular those who regularly travel across time zones, may benefit from melatonin supplementation.

Sleeplessness Studies on the effects of melatonin in patients with insomnia have demonstrated improvements in overall sleep activity. Reported improvements include the ability to fall asleep faster, fewer nighttime awakenings, and increases in sleep efficiency (percent of time asleep to total time in bed). In one study, sleep onset and sleep maintenance were improved in elderly people with insomnia following one week of supplementation. Patients given a sustained-released preparation experienced further improvements in sleep onset over a two-month period.

Jet Lag, is due to the desynchronization between various body rhythms and environmental rhythm as a result of traveling across time zones. Individuals with jet lag may experience disturbed sleep, increased irritability, as well as difficulties in falling to sleep and maintaining restful sleep. Melatonin supplementation may help to alleviate or prevent jet lag by helping to speed up the shifting of the body clock from the time zone to the next.

A review of 10 trials of which nine compared melatonin with placebo and one with the drug zolpidem, a hypnotic, found melatonin to be highly effective in preventing or reducing jet lag. Study subjects included airline passengers, airline staff, or military personnel. Daily doses between 0.5mg to 5mg taken at bedtime were found to be similarly effective at preventing or reducing jet lag, however the effects were greater at the higher dose. According to this review doses higher than 5mg do not appear to demonstrate any increased benefit.

Antioxidant Activity and Effect on the Immune System In addition to its role in regulating the wake/sleep cycle, melatonin has been shown to possess antioxidant and anti-aging effects. Through its free radical scavenging activity, melatonin helps to protect cells from molecular damage and dysfunction. Cellular damage caused by free radicals is believed to accelerate the aging process and to be the basis for many disease states. Melatonin supplementation has been reported to provide some benefit to individuals who have a high burden of oxidative stress by reducing the severity of illness.

Finally, evidence suggests that melatonin may also have immunotherapeutic potential. Activation of melatonin receptors has been shown to enhance cytokine release in human monocytes. This activity suggests that melatonin may help to support the body’s natural resistance to pathogens.

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**Supplement Facts**

Serving Size: 1 Lozenge  
Servings Per Container: 60

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount Per Serving</th>
<th>%Daily Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Melatonin</td>
<td>3 mg</td>
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** Daily Value not established.

**Other Ingredients:** Xylitol, stearic acid, mannitol, silica, vegetable magnesium stearate, natural peppermint flavor and Sooolite™.

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**Dosing**

Take one to two lozenges 15 to 60 minutes before bedtime, or as directed by your healthcare practitioner.

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**References**


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**Cautions**

Consult your healthcare practitioner before use. Keep out of reach of children. If you have any autoimmune disease do not use melatonin.*

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*These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.