

# NeoStrata Offers New Generation of Alpha Hydroxy Acids

By Bob Kronemyer, Associate Editor



**Elizabeth Briden, M.D.**  
Advanced Dermatology and  
Cosmetic Institute  
Edina, MN

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**Marta Rendon, M.D.**  
Medical Director  
Dermatology and Aesthetic Center  
Boca Raton, FL

A new generation of alpha hydroxy acids (AHAs) from The NeoStrata Company (Princeton, N.J.) offer patients the benefits of traditional AHAs — cell turnover, skin firming, increased skin thickness — with less stinging, plus antioxidant effects, moisturization and skin barrier strengthening.

“Virtually everyone can benefit from a chemical peel,” said Elizabeth Briden, M.D., owner of the Advanced Dermatology and Cosmetic Institute in Edina, Minn. “This is a very simple and inexpensive procedure that can be used on any type of skin, and in any age group ranging from teenagers to octogenarians. Chemical peels can also be combined to enhance the majority of cosmetic and surgical procedures. Outcomes can be further enhanced with the use of effective home care products between procedures.”

Newer polyhydroxy acids (PHAs) represent a “breakthrough in the AHAs,” Dr. Briden noted. “The PHAs are very potent antioxidants, but they are nonirritating and more moisturizing than traditional AHAs.” Polyhydroxy bionic acids are similar to PHAs and are often combined within a product. “The bionic acids include lactobionic acid, a very potent antioxidant. These bionic acids also form a gel matrix on the skin for improved barrier function of the skin, even more so than the PHAs alone. As a result of their added benefits and gentleness, both the bionic acids and PHAs are ideal alternatives for home care treatment after procedures.”

NeoStrata, the pioneer in developing AHA skincare technology, provides a wide variety of AHA and PHA products for daily home care use. A separate line of chemical peeling agents in a much higher concentration (e.g., glycolic acid, 20% to 70%) is for in-office application.

A chemical peel is particularly beneficial in tandem with most non-ablative

lasers that tighten tissue and target collagen stimulation, “but don’t affect the surface of the skin,” Dr. Briden said. “The same holds true with Botox (Allergan, Irvine, Calif.) and facial fillers. A chemical peel will actually even out pigmentation, decrease pore size and help reduce fine lines and wrinkles.” Dr. Briden recommends a series of four to six peels, spaced about one month apart, with at-home use of PHA or bionic acid products between peels.

“Over several years, we witnessed an overwhelming amount of research that proves the efficacy of AHAs,” noted Marta Rendon, M.D., medical director at the Dermatology and Aesthetic Center in Boca Raton, Fla. “More recently, though, I believe many people have forgotten about chemical peels because of newer lasers and facial fillers hitting the market. But you have to address tone, texture and surface. The best way to do that is with superficial chemical peels in combination with anti-aging products at home.”

PHAs are suitable for more sensitive skin because “they are more hydrating and moisturizing,” Dr. Rendon conveyed. The bionics “are new molecules for people with dry skin and the elderly who need a product that is more moisturizing. They are also well suited for use after procedures when skin is sensitive and in need of conditioning and moisturization.”

Patients normally schedule a series of five chemical peels at one month intervals. “Five sessions allow a peak in maximal improvement,” Dr. Rendon said. “We currently use these superficial chemical peels for the treatment of photodamage, aged skin, pigmentary abnormalities, rosacea, acne and mild acne scarring. These products have withstood the test of time. An increasing number of scientific studies have validated their therapeutic efficacy.”