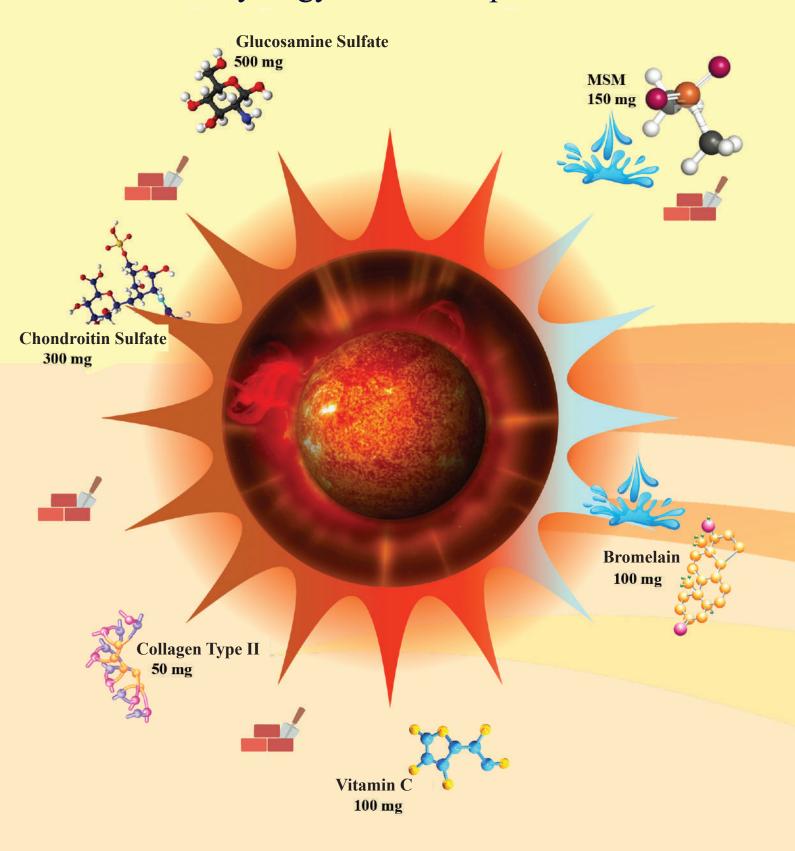
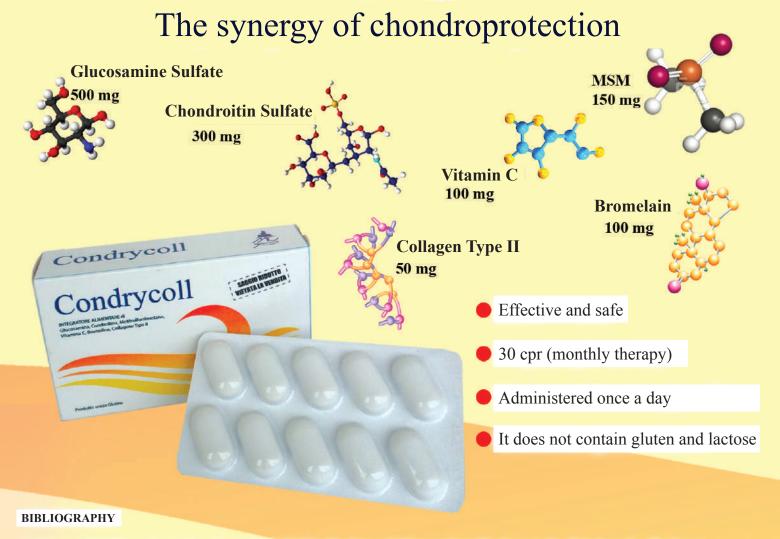
The synergy of chondroprotection



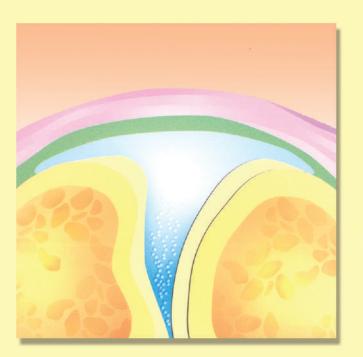


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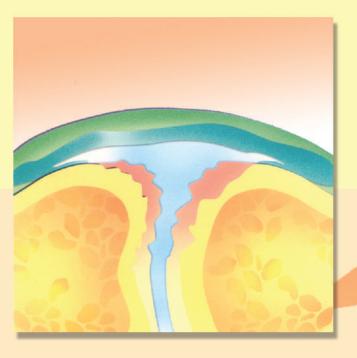
The synergy of chondroprotection





CONSTRUCTION USURY

The **cartilage** is a material highly dynamic, it normally meets **degradation and repairing** processes. (1-2)



CONSTRUCTION

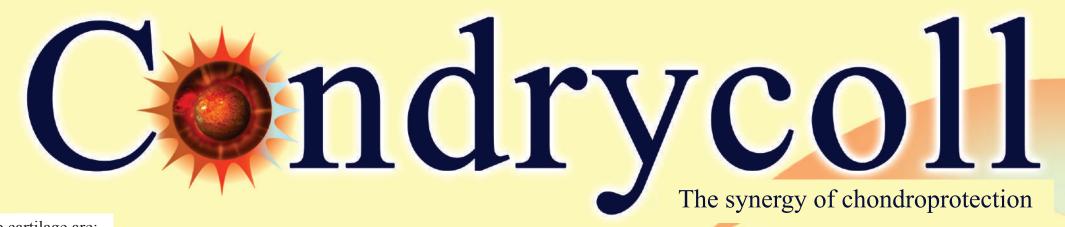
Repeated micro-traumatisms or single traumatic injuries can result in the **loss of this balance** and so the onset of **osteoarthritis**. (1-2)

Since 2003 the recommendations of European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) for the treatment of knee's OA say:

"Slow- acting symptomatic drugs (SYSADOA) glucosamine sulfate, chondroitin sulfate, hyaluronic acid (...) have symptomatic effects and can have favorable effects on the cartilage structure" (3)

Since 2010 the recommendations of Osteoarthritis Research Society International, **OARSI**, for the treatment of knee's OA and hip's OA say:

"The treatment of **glucosamine and/or chondroitin sulfate** can have **favorable symptomatic effects** in patients with **knee's osteoarthritis**. The rating of effects is going to be done within **6 (six) months** since the beginning of the treatment. (4)



The main components of the cartilage are:

Glycosaminoglycans (GAG) of which a precursor is **Glucosamine**.

They are macromolecules that contribute to forming cartilage's "sponge" structure. being hydrophones, GAG can bind very easily with water molecules, creating hydrated molecules. hydration leads to a sort of swelling of the GAG molecule.

Chondroitin sulfate

molecules: it's a macromolecule of glycosaminoglycan with a spherical shape: it gives resistance to cartilage compression.

All these components are held together in a **Collagen** matrix (it is the main protein of the connective tissue) like a sponge, it holds the water together, forming the cushioning and the regular sliding of the joints.

And also:

-elastin (another protein)

-wate

-hyaluronic acid (shock absorbing and lubricating molecule) -proteoglycans (macromolecules with a protein axis to which saccharides and GAG are bound)

In order to maintain these properties, a person needs a nutrient-rich diet and an ample supply of glycosaminoglycans, chondroitin sulfate, and proteoglycans, otherwise, the cartilage degenerates more easily. Research, focusing on the prevention of osteoporosis, seems to indicate the use of glucosamine sulfate to protect and repair proteoglycans in cartilage. In fact, glucosamine is important for regulating cartilage formation and supporting the metabolism, favoring a greater production of collagen and proteoglycans; it also stimulates the synovial hyaluronic acid which has the quality of shock-absorbing and lubricating in the synovial fluid.

The **Bromelain**, which has shown anti-edema analgesic and anti-inflammatory proprieties, can offer additional treatment for osteoporosis.

The MSM (methyl sulfonyl methane): together, chondroprotective and anti-inflammatory, methyl-sulfonyl-methane is a chondroprotective organic compound synergistic to glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate.

About that, it's believed that in addition to the possible stimulus on the synthesis of the cartilage- the methyl-sulfonyl-methane can act helping to stabilize cell membranes, to slow down or stop the loss of cells damaged and to neutralize free radicals that trigger inflammation.

Consulting a meta-analysis and a review of some studies available in the literature, and analyzing a more recent study, it's possible to assert that the methyl-sulfonyl-methane appear useful in the arthrosis treatment.

To this, we increase the **vitamin** C, that is very important for the right action of the immune system. The collagen, therefore, strengthens blood vessels, skin, muscles and bones. **Man cannot create collagen without vitamin** C.

The changes that are observed during osteoarthritis involve all joint structures and they are associated with the appearance of inflammation, edema, pain and progressive functional limitation of movement causing a global decompensation of the affected joint. (1-2 Johannes....Hunter)

The inflammatory reaction causes the formation of microcrystals of hydroxyapatite, an unmasking of cartilaginous antigens and phagocytosis of degradation fragments with further amplification of the inflammatory process.