

Common Peeling Agents

Agent	Composition	Depth	Notes	Uses
Glycolic Acid	50-70%	Superficial	Does not produce frosting. Must be neutralized with sodium bicarb.	Acne, dyschromia, photoaging
Salicylic Acid	20-30%	Superficial	Does not frost, though a white residue may be left behind. Has analgesic properties. Self-neutralizing.	Acne, dyschromia, photoaging
Jessner's Solution	Equal parts salicylic acid, resorcinol and lactic acid in ethanol.	Superficial	Produces patchy frosting. Self-neutralizing. May be used prior to TCA to produce a medium-depth peel.	Acne, dyschromia, photoaging
Trichloroacetic Acid (TCA)	10-100%	Superficial - 10-30%, Medium - 35% following Jessner solution, glycolic acid or CO2 slush, Deep ->50% (rarely used)	Produces frosting with greater opacity at greater concentrations. Cannot be neutralized. Used at 70-100% concentration for TCA CROSS procedure.	Dyschromia, photoaging, rhytides, actinic keratoses
Phenol	>80%	Deep	Carries the risk of cardiotoxicity. Must have continuous cardiac monitoring and pulse ox.	Deep rhytides
Baker Gordon Formula	Phenol, water, Septisol, croton oil	Deep	Carries the risk of cardiotoxicity. Must have continuous cardiac monitoring and pulse ox.	Deep rhytides