

By David M. Brady, ND, DACBN, IFMCP, FACN and Danielle Moyer, MS, CNS, LDN

This information is provided as a medical and scientific educational resource for the use of physicians and other licensed health-care practitioners ("Practitioners"). This information is intended for Practitioners to use as a basis for determining whether to recommend these products to their patients. All recommendations regarding protocols, dosing, prescribing, and/or usage instructions should be tailored to the individual needs of the patient considering their medical history and concomitant therapies. This information is not intended for use by consumers.

NOx Synergy™ is a comprehensive formula designed to support healthy nitric oxide (NO) levels, cardiovascular health, and athletic performance.\* It is provided in a convenient grape flavored powder to allow serving size flexibility and better patient compliance.\* NOx Synergy™ may help attenuate the effects of oxidative stress and promote healthy blood flow and energy production.\*

## Formula Highlights

- Features 1.5 g of L-arginine and 1.5 g of L-citrulline per serving
- Grape and apple extracts standardized to contain 95% polyphenols
- Delivers targeted amounts of creatine, taurine, magnesium, and the bioactive form of folate to support healthy nitric oxide levels\*
- Contains the antioxidants L-glutathione and vitamin C to support endothelial health\*
- Great-tasting grape flavor sweetened with PhytoSweet® stevia blend
- Easy-to-mix in water or any other beverage
- Convenient powdered delivery, allowing serving size flexibility
- Gluten-free, dairy-free, non-GMO, and soy-free

**Nitric oxide (NO)** is a vasodilator that promotes increased blood supply to tissues, which increases the delivery of oxygen and nutrients, and facilitates the clearance of metabolic by-products.<sup>1</sup> NO regulates hormone secretion, nutrient metabolism, cardiac contractility, smooth muscle relaxation, and promotes a healthy microbial balance.<sup>1-4</sup> NO is a messenger molecule that attenuates the atherosclerotic process by decreasing monocyte adhesion and atheroma formation.<sup>2</sup> Healthy NO levels may support healthy blood pressure by supporting vasodilation, reducing sodium reabsorption, promoting sodium and water excretion, and modulating extracellular and plasma volume.<sup>2</sup> Clinical studies suggest that impaired NO production, bioavailability, or activity is associated with endothelial dysfunction in cardiovascular disease, hypertension, obesity, and atherosclerosis.<sup>5</sup>

**L-arginine (Arg)** is a precursor to NO and has been shown to increase NO bioavailability in vitro.<sup>2</sup> Arg can be obtained from dietary sources or endogenous metabolism.<sup>2</sup> Human studies suggest that Arg supplementation promotes healthy NO levels and may be clinically relevant to individuals with metabolic syndrome or erectile dysfunction.<sup>3</sup> A systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trials observed that normotensive or hypertensive individuals who were administered Arg supplementation of  $\leq 9$  g per day had significantly decreased systolic and diastolic blood pressure regardless of study duration, sex, health status, or body mass index, and was generally well tolerated.<sup>2</sup>

Arg supplementation may support athletic performance through its role in NO production.\* In clinical trials, NO has been shown to increase blood flow and improve muscle contraction, oxygen supply to muscles, glucose uptake, muscle fatigue, mitochondrial respiration, and oxidative phosphorylation.<sup>6,7</sup> A systematic review and meta-analysis evaluated the effects of Arg supplementation versus a placebo on aerobic and anaerobic performance in athletes.<sup>6</sup> The athletes administered Arg supplementation of 0.15 g/kg of body weight ingested between 60 minutes and 90 minutes before exercise displayed improved aerobic and anaerobic physiological parameters and performance outcomes.<sup>6</sup>

**L-citrulline (Cit)** can serve as an endogenous precursor to Arg, thereby increasing NO production. In human studies, Cit supplementation has been shown to support cardiovascular health and athletic performance.<sup>4,7,8</sup> Some research suggests that Cit supplementation may be more effective than Arg supplementation in promoting healthy NO levels due to different metabolic pathways.<sup>1,4</sup> Unlike Arg, Cit is not metabolized in the liver or intestine.<sup>1,4</sup> A systematic review and meta-analysis studying the acute effects of Cit supplementation on high-intensity strength and power performance observed a significant benefit for those taking Cit supplementation compared to a placebo.<sup>7</sup>

On the other hand, human and animal studies suggest that the combined effect of Cit and Arg supplementation may be more beneficial than one amino acid alone.<sup>1</sup> For instance, in healthy men, a combination of 1 g per day of Arg and 1 g per day of Cit increased plasma Arg levels more effectively than either 2 g per day of Arg or 2 g per day of Cit alone.<sup>1</sup> A study showed that male soccer players who supplemented with 1.2 g per day of Arg and 1.2 g per day of Cit for one week had significantly improved power output and subjective perception of "leg muscle soreness" and "ease of pedaling" during a cycling test, and elevated plasma Cit, Arg, and NO levels.<sup>1</sup>

## Benefits\*

- Supports healthy nitric oxide levels
- Supports healthy blood flow
- Supports cardiovascular health
- Supports athletic performance
- Promotes energy production

## Supplement Facts

Serving Size 9 grams (approx. one scoop)		
Servings Per Container 30		
Amount Per Serving	% Daily Value	
Calories	5	
Total Carbohydrate	1 g	1%**
Vitamin C (as Ascorbic Acid)	300 mg	333%
Folate (as Quatrefolic® (6S)-5-methyltetrahydrofolate, glucosamine salt)	170 mcg DFE	43%
Pantothenic Acid (as d-Calcium Pantothenate)	100 mg	2000%
Magnesium (from Creatine MagnaPower™)	120 mg	29%
Magnesium Creatine Chelate (Creatine MagnaPower™)	1.5 g	-
L-Arginine	1.5 g	-
L-Citrulline	1.5 g	-
Taurine	1 g	-
Creatine (from Creatine MagnaPower™)	675 mg	-
Grape and Apple Extracts ( <i>Vitis vinifera</i> )(fruit) ( <i>Malus pumila</i> )(skin) (standardized to contain 95% polyphenols)	250 mg	-
L-Glutathione	100 mg	-

\*\*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.  
\*Daily Value not established.

**Other Ingredients:** Tartaric acid, natural flavor, partially hydrolyzed guar gum, PhytoSweet® blend (rebaudioside M, steviol glycosides [from *Stevia rebaudiana* leaf]).

NOx Synergy™ includes glutathione as an adjunct to Cit. The combination of these compounds has been shown to increase plasma levels of NO in vivo and in vitro.<sup>9</sup> Glutathione may be particularly beneficial for attenuating oxidative reduction of NO and sustained release of NO in the body.<sup>9</sup> Glutathione and Cit combined may support muscle protein synthesis and muscle performance after resistance training.<sup>9</sup>

**Folate (as Quatrefolic® [6S]-5-methyltetrahydrofolate glucosamine salt)** is included to promote tetrahydrobiopterin (BH4) bioavailability within the vascular endothelium, as demonstrated in vitro and in vivo.<sup>10</sup> BH4 is a required cofactor for nitric oxide synthase (NOS) activity.<sup>10</sup> Inadequate levels of BH4 may result in the generation of superoxide radicals, rather than NO, from endothelial NOS (eNOS).<sup>10</sup> NOS-derived superoxide reacts with NO to produce highly reactive peroxynitrite radicals, which rapidly oxidize BH4 and trigger the uncoupling of NOS.<sup>10</sup> Depletion of BH4 and uncoupling of NOS are associated with many cardiovascular pathologies.<sup>10</sup> In individuals with compromised endothelial function, folic acid supplementation helped to restore endothelium-dependent vasodilation.<sup>10</sup> Sufficient folate is also required for the proper metabolism of homocysteine, which may play a role in circulating levels of NO and support healthy endothelial function.<sup>11</sup> In vitro, folic acid administration improved endothelial function by reducing homocysteine and increasing BH4 and NO production.<sup>12</sup>

**Grape (*Vitis vinifera*) and apple (*Malus pumila*) extracts** hold antioxidant properties and may promote vasodilation.\* In human and rodent models, supplementation with various grape/grape seed extracts has been shown to promote healthy blood pressure at rest and during exercise.<sup>13-15</sup> Grape seed extract is proposed to activate eNOS and, in turn, increase NO production.<sup>16</sup> In a randomized controlled trial with prehypertensive middle-aged adults, the individuals receiving 400 mg per day of grape seed extract supplementation had significantly improved systolic and diastolic blood pressure and vascular elasticity compared to a placebo.<sup>17</sup> Rodent models have demonstrated that apple extract polyphenols hold endothelial-dependent vasorelaxation properties and result in a significant increase in NO production.<sup>18</sup>

**Vitamin C** plays a vital role in supporting vascular health.<sup>19</sup> Vitamin C is necessary for collagen synthesis, stimulating endothelial proliferation, inhibiting apoptosis, scavenging free radicals, and supporting normal blood flow through nitric oxide interactions.<sup>19</sup> As a potent antioxidant, vitamin C may help attenuate the oxidative stress and inflammation associated with vascular dysfunction.<sup>19</sup>

**Taurine** is an amino acid that regulates vascular relaxation through the modulation of NO.<sup>5</sup> Human studies suggest taurine may support cardiovascular health and athletic performance.<sup>20</sup> Rodent models highlight that taurine increases NO levels and bioavailability, while hypertensive animal models demonstrate that taurine promotes healthy blood pressure.<sup>5,21</sup> A randomized controlled trial (n = 120) administered taurine supplementation (1.6 g per day) or a placebo to hypertensive individuals for 12 weeks.<sup>21</sup> The individuals receiving taurine supplements displayed significantly decreased blood pressure and improved endothelium-dependent and endothelium-independent vasodilation.<sup>21</sup>

**Creatine and magnesium** provide a stable, synergistic pairing that may promote cardiovascular health, muscle performance, and energy production.\* Magnesium supports healthy blood pressure by stimulating local vasodilator mediators, including NO, and modulating endothelium-dependent and endothelium-independent vasodilation.<sup>22,23</sup> Systematic reviews and meta-analyses have demonstrated an inverse association between magnesium intake and cardiovascular risk, including promoting healthy blood pressure.<sup>23-25</sup> It is proposed that creatine may benefit vascular health by attenuating oxidative stress and improving NO bioavailability.<sup>26</sup>

Dietary supplementation of creatine (3 g per day) to adults may significantly contribute to energy storage and metabolism in the skeletal muscle and promote athletic performance.<sup>20</sup> A 4-week clinical study reported that individuals performing exercise training and taking creatine supplements (20 g per day for 6 days, then 2 g per day for the remainder of the study) displayed improved maximal muscle strength and reduced exercise-associated muscle damage in adults.<sup>20</sup> The combination of magnesium and creatine may further support athletic performance.\* Elite soccer players who were administered 0.7 g/kg per day of magnesium creatine chelate for 16 weeks displayed improved repeated sprint ability test results, and increased speed and power compared to a placebo.<sup>27</sup>

**Recommended Use:** Mix 9 grams (approximately one scoop) in 8 ounces of water per day or as directed by your health-care practitioner.

For a list of references cited in this document, please visit:

<https://www.designsforhealth.com/api/library-assets/literature-reference---nox-synergy-tech-sheet-references>

Dosing recommendations are given for typical use based on an average 150 pound healthy adult. Healthcare practitioners are encouraged to use clinical judgement with case-specific dosing based on intended goals, subject body weight, medical history, and concomitant medication and supplement usage.

**Quatrefolic® is covered by U.S. Patent No. 7,947,662 and is a registered trademark of Gnosis S.p.A.**

**Creatine MagnaPower™ is a trademark of Albion Laboratories, Inc.**



**\*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.**

To contact Designs for Health, please call us at (860) 623-6314 or visit us on the web at [www.designsforhealth.com](http://www.designsforhealth.com).