

January 19, 2026 (Monday)

To all members of the press,

オリザ油化株式会社

Oryza Oil & Fat Chemical Co., Ltd. Confirms the Effect of "SAKULORA™ (Lactic Acid Bacteria Derived from Cherry Blossoms)" on Promoting Equol Production in Humans and Files for Patent!

Oryza Oil & Fat Chemical Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Ichinomiya City, Aichi Prefecture; President and CEO: Hiromichi Murai; hereinafter referred to as "Oryza Oil & Fat Chemical") conducted an internal clinical trial (oral intake) related to femcare using the product "SAKULORA™ (Lactic Acid Bacteria Derived from Cherry Blossoms)", which was launched in October 2024. As a result, **we confirmed a significant effect in promoting equol production and have filed a new patent application.**

■ Background of the Study

With the growing awareness of women's health, there has been increasing interest in supplements containing equol, which has estrogen-like effects. Equol is a substance produced by the metabolism of "daidzein", a type of isoflavone, by gut bacteria, and various functionalities have been reported.

However, the amount and activity of gut bacteria that convert ingested isoflavone (daidzein) into equol vary from person to person. It is known that **one in two people in Japan and Asia, and two in three people in Western countries, cannot produce equol at all.** In addition, equol production can decrease due to lifestyle imbalances or changes in gut flora. Therefore, in order to efficiently convert daidzein into equol, it is important to maintain a healthy gut environment.

"SAKULORA™" had previously shown the ability to promote equol production in mice, and its effects in humans had been anticipated.



Source: Journal of the Japan Society of Women's Medicine, 20:313-332, 2012

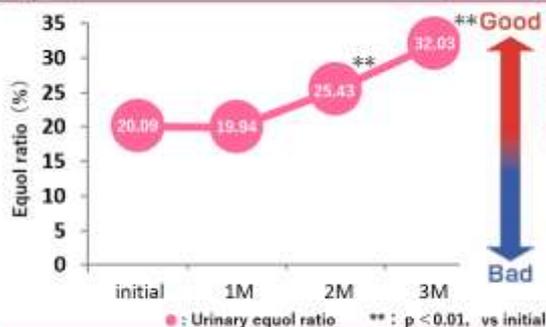
Trial Details and Results

A total of 11 healthy women (average age 41.1 ± 14.0 years) took 50 mg of "SAKULORA™" daily for 12 weeks. The ratio of equol production in urine (equol/daidzein concentration) was evaluated. In addition, **premenstrual symptoms (PMTS-VAS questionnaire)** and **menopausal symptoms (SMI score)** were also investigated.

【Main Findings】

- **Significant increase in equol production ratio:** After 2 to 3 months of intake, the equol production ratio significantly increased compared to before intake.
- **Equol production confirmed in non-producers:** Two participants who could not produce equol before intake were able to produce it after 3 months of intake.
- **Tendency toward QOL improvement:** Improvements were observed in symptoms measured by both PMTS-VAS and SMI scores.

Urinary equol ratio (equol/daidzein concentration in urine)



Why calculate "ratio"?

Equol production varies by individual, even with the same isoflavone intake. The daidzein-to-equol ratio provides a clear, accurate metric of gut bacterial efficiency.



Equol non-producer participants data

	Initial	1M	2M	3M
Subject A	0	0	0	16.19
Subject B	0	0	0	8.78

The urinary equol production ratio showed a significant increase compared to initial score.

Equol production confirmed even in previously classified "non-producers".

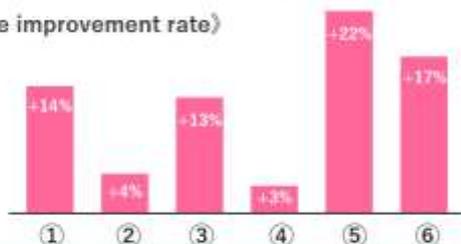
PMTS-VAS

(Premenstrual Tension Syndrome Visual Analogue Scale)

【Improvement trend items】

- ① Depressed mood; feeling hopeless
- ② Feeling suddenly sad or tearful (Affective lability)
- ③ Irritability or anger ④ Difficulty concentrating
- ⑤ Changes in appetite (overeating or food cravings)
- ⑥ Physical symptoms (e.g., breast tenderness, bloating, joint/muscle pain)

《Score improvement rate》



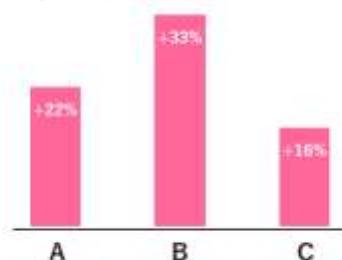
SMI score

(Simplified Menopausal Index)

【Improvement trend items】

- A. Easy sweating
- B. Difficulty falling asleep or shallow sleep (Insomnia)
- C. Stiff shoulders, backache, or pain in the limbs

《Score improvement rate》



Improvements were observed in PMTS-VAS and SMI scores, demonstrating Sakulora™ efficacy for women in both premenopausal and menopausal stages.

■ Trademark and Promotional Video Available

“SAKULORA™” has received significant interest not only for its solid research data but also for its familiar and appealing name.

- **Image strategy support:** Trademark logo (pictured right) available for use in product packaging, advertising, and landing pages.
- **Free promotional video:** A 5-minute promotional video visually explaining the excellent water dispersibility and intestinal absorption of this **nano-type lactic acid bacterium** is available free of charge.

※Note: Some conditions apply. Please contact our sales department for details.



■ About SAKULORA™ (Lactic Acid Bacteria Derived from Cherry Blossoms)

Discovered after years of screening, this lactic acid bacterium (*Lactocaseibacillus paracasei* shidare strain) was isolated from the flowers of the weeping cherry tree. As the second cherry blossom-themed material following the anti-glycation material “Cherry Blossom Extract”, the following multifaceted functional data have been confirmed:

- **Gut regulation and improved bowel movements:** Promotes production of intestinal serotonin and IgA
- **Immunostimulatory effects:** Promotes production of IL-10 and IL-12
- **Beauty effects:** Promotes gene expression of collagen and hyaluronic acid synthesis enzymes
- **Femcare effects:** Promotes equol production and inhibits EMT (epithelial-mesenchymal transition)



SAKULORA™