

## Visual Acuity and Endurance abstract Sawaki

**Title;**Sports Performance  
Benefits from Taking Natural  
Astaxanthin Characterized by  
Visual Acuity and Muscle Fatigue  
Improvement in Humans.

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**Abstract;**The effects of astaxanthin on visual acuity and muscle fatigue were studied. Astaxanthin (3,3'-Dihydroxy-.BETA.,.BETA.-carotene-4,4'-dione) is a red pigment found in salmon and krill and has strong antioxidant properties. In the two supplementation studies, astaxanthin extracted from algae (*Haematococcus pluvialis*) was used. Four visual acuity parameters were examined in experiment A in 18 healthy adult male volunteers that were equally divided into two groups (treatment and control). The measured parameters were deep vision, critical flicker fusion, static and kinetic visual acuity before and after supplementation. A second investigation (experiment B) involved 16 adult male volunteers to establish the effect of astaxanthin supplementation on the build up of lactic acid before and after running 1200 metres. In both experiments, the treated groups ingested an astaxanthin capsule per day for 4 weeks (6mg astaxanthin per day) and the control groups received a placebo capsule. Results: In experiment A, the deep vision and the critical flicker fusion of the treated groups were significantly improved compared to the control group. No effects of treated group were observed on static and kinetic visual acuity. In experiment B, serum lactic acid concentration at 2

minutes after activity (1,200m running) of the treatment group was significantly lower than that of the control one. No other effects related to supplementation of astaxanthin on serum biological and hematological examinations were observed. Based on these preliminary findings, it suggested that supplementation of astaxanthin is effective for the improvement of visual acuity and muscle fatigue that may lead to sports performance benefits.