

Study design and testing of decorative cosmetics on problematic skin-conditions

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Introduction

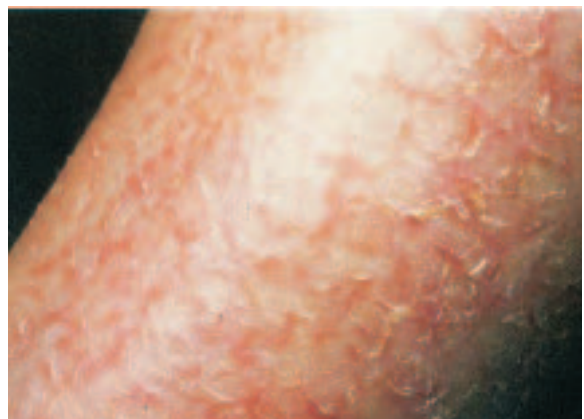
The cosmetic industry is booming and growing and so are the claims concerning the degree of amicability and effectiveness of colour-cosmetic products. A colour-cosmetic today is not only due to the decorative effect but also has to be well-tolerated. Not only have the demands changed, but also the average skin-conditions. The skin conditions have gone to extremes in the population. There are growing groups with extremities in dry skin, sensitive skin and seborrheic skin. In the last decades, the cosmetic industry and physicians have recognized, that the atopic skin and the seborrheic acne skin are conditions which need and work well with cosmetic support.



Sensitive skin and Colour cosmetics

At present, the definition of "sensitive skin" is still debated. Contradictory findings have been reported. Some investigators reported that sensitive skin seems to be due either to a constitutional anomaly, or caused by skin disease, ageing or occupational exposure to irritants. On the other hand some investigators found no constitutional increase in skin reactivity. It is not clear if the word "sensitive" should be applied exclusively

to observable hyperreactive susceptibility to sensations such as stinging, itching and tight feeling after the application of a topical product. Undoubtedly very often many reported reactions to cosmetics and toiletries are frequently sensory phenomena with no visible effects. This impossibility to classify this phenomenon between the several skin diseases, led to define the sensitive skin with the definition of "status cosmeticus". In fact, many cosmetics, free of known compounds of allergic hypersensitivity, produce an unremarkable clinical picture in a certain number of individual persons. Moreover, the same cosmetic products whilst completely harmless to the majority of consumers, are nonetheless capable of producing a stinging sensation in the growing group of consumers with problematic skin. They describe visible skin reactions of the "butterfly" area of the face such as erythema, and non inflammatory sequelae, such as dryness and roughness, claiming to have tried from ten to twenty different cosmetics without solving the problems. It is, for sure, this group of consumers of colour-cosmetics, mostly young woman, who are very demanding on their looks. So the requirements on modern colour-cosmetics are high. These cosmetics are not only to be easily applied and permanently to stay on, but also to protect from further skin-damage and balance the deficiencies in sensitive skin.



Normal skin possesses a potent barrier to water loss. The lipid layer recovery is observed within a few days, and the transepidermal water loss (TEWL) comes down again. Disruption and repair of the epidermal barrier occur continually and do not require special attention. However, an increase