

〈シンポジウム〉

(化粧品の有用性を支える皮膚科学研究の今後と方向性)

皮膚の水分保持能・バリア機能からみた化粧品の有用性

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Usefulness of Skin Care Cosmetics from the Viewpoint of Stratum Corneum Function

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Abstract

Skin is the largest organ in the human body, which lessens the loss of water from the skin surface and serves as a “barrier” to protect one’s body from the invasions of various foreign bodies and irritants from the outside. Especially, the stratum corneum is only a few micrometers thick, but it gives the skin “flexibility” and a “moisture feeling” with its admirable moisture retention function. It apparently plays an extremely important role from the cosmetic point of view. In this report, the functions of the stratum corneum are briefly reviewed first. Some examples are shown, in which various parameters proved to improve as a result of some skin care cosmetics. As skin care cosmetics have the important and fundamental functions, they are expected to meet every user’s skin. However, as the number of users who complain to have the so-called “sensitive skin” is increasing, the need for products which those users can use every day without worries, is getting higher. The term “sensitive skin” is very subjective and its definition is ambiguous. Its true meaning is being discussed in detail by dermatologists, user surveys, and diverse dermatological studies. In addition, this report shows how to define “sensitive skin,” and presents a few examples of product development.

Key words: stratum corneum, water holding function, barrier function, sensitive skin.