

〈シンポジウム〉

機能を持つ化粧品に期待すること

機能性化粧品の医療現場における役割

——現状と今後——

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A Role of Functional Cosmetics in Medical Practice

——Present and Future——

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Abstract

A new wave of cosmetic or aesthetic dermatology has come to the practice of dermatology in Japan. A marked advance has been made by new medical technology such as lasers, intense-pulsed light, and radio frequency as well as by the development of basic sciences such as physiology, biochemistry, or molecular biology of the skin. In the field of cosmetology, the progress to assure safety of cosmetic products was made in the 1970s and 1980s. Then a new progress was forwarded to make skin-care cosmetics against dry, sun-damaged, or aged skin in 1990s. In 2006, we are now waiting for the dawn of 'functional cosmetics.' As a dermatologist, I hope that functional cosmetics may be safe, hypoirritant and hypoallergenic to the skin and should be safe to the other organs. However, it may be difficult to assure both of function and safety.

Functional cosmetics should have accountability to consumers. Thus their functional properties should be shown by some definite index according to the evaluation with standard methods. In this article, the role of functional cosmetics in medical practice present and future is discussed.

Key words: functional cosmetic, skin care, medical practice, aesthetic dermatology.