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〈一般論文〉

敏感肌特有の色に関連する肌悩みの実態

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Skin Redness in Women with Sensitive Skin

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Abstract

The number of women with sensitive skin has increased recently. Sensitive skin is associated with a decline in barrier function of the stratum corneum induced by a weak inflammation. However, other causes of sensitive skin, including skin color, have not been investigated in detail. We investigated skin-related complications in women between the ages of 25 and 40 years using a web search in Japan and selected representative panels. Among those with sensitive skin, we focused on women who have repeated skin problems. Women who repeatedly develop skin-related complications have concerns about dryness and redness. Sensitive skin has higher transepidermal water loss values and lower skin water content compared with normal skin; in addition, the stratum corneum in those with sensitive skin can be peeled off easily. Moreover, the indexes of both red and black skin coloration were increased in women with sensitive skin. These increases probably occurred because of repeated inflammation in the surface skin on the face. Next, we performed detailed investigations for determining reasons for skin redness, and our results indicated that redness occurred owing to increased flow in the blood vessels of the cheek. On observing the cheek of panels using a video microscope, the entire skin surface was red, specifically the area with blood vessels and the epidermis around the skin pores. These results suggest that sensitive skin may develop red and black coloration because of repeated skin problems compared to normal skin.

Key words:　sensitive skin, inflammation, corneum, redness, blood flow.