<シンポジウム>「基剤と添加物の役割」

基 剤 の 役 割 （化粧品）

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The Role of Vehicles in Cosmetics

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Abstract

Cosmetics and medicaments for external use are similar in that both are brought into contact with skin for certain purposes. The former is used daily over a long period for skin care and/or for creation of more beautiful appearance. The selection and usage of them are left to users (consumers) themselves. On the other hand, the latter is not only restricted for use to the affected skin area but with the termination of the symptons its use is discontinued. Medicaments for external use differ largely from cosmetics in the fact that they are basically employed under the selection and control of specialists; e.g., doctors or pharmacists.

In addition, it is well known that the Japanese pharmaceutical affairs law makes a clear-cut distinction between cosmetics and medicaments for external use with regard to the regulations on indication of pharmacological effects and efficacies.

Cosmetics primarily used for skin care purposes are employed either to protect the drying of skin which is caused by sudden changes of environmental conditions, compensate the lost sebum after washing a face and body, and restore the damaged skin to the normal condition where the surface of skin is protected by a thin layer of sebum, or as a preparatory foundation to highlight the make-up effects. Therefore their effects are sensuous rather than pharmacological as they make skin feel moistened, smoothed and refreshed. These effects are associated with one's tasts as well as color and smell, and thus regarded important for cosmetics as they bring psychological satisfaction to the users.

It is vehicles that determine "moistenness", "smoothness" and "refreshment" which are provided by the use of cosmetics. Each constituent of them holds an individual role and cosmetics are characterized by the combination of them. Therefore there are used many kinds of vehicles in cosmetics and this fact makes cosmetics differ largely from medicaments for external use.