

〈教育セミナー〉

おしゃれで安全な化粧品とは

敏感肌

—意識・実態とスティンギング（刺激感）—

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Prevalence of Sensitive Skin

—Consciousness, Skin Physiological Feature and Stinging—

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Abstract

Sensitive skin is a condition of subjective cutaneous hyper-reactivity to environmental factors which shows itching, burning, stinging and a tight sensation are constantly present. Although surveys of sensitive skin consciousness are influenced by various factors, our survey showed that the percentage of the population with sensitive skin consciousness ranged from 40 to 50% in Greater China and ASEAN countries, about 60 to 80% in the United States and Europe and almost the same in Japan. More than half of the population with sensitive skin consciousness was taking a certain measures, such as using the cosmetics for sensitive skin, in order to solve the troubles of a sensitive skin. While the causes of sensitive skin are multi-factorial, a decrease in the barrier function of the stratum corneum and acceleration of sensory nerve responses in the skin are considered to be involved especially. The stinging test, originally developed as a method for evaluating sensory irritation by cosmetic materials or products, is useful for comprehensively evaluating abnormalities of sensitive skin. Recently, the stinging test was improved aiming at characterization of sensitive skin, an efficacy evaluation of a cosmetics, etc. The new test uses a model face lotion as a stinging substance suitable for a study of sensitive skin and employs new application procedures for highly sensitive stinging evaluation method.

Key words: sensitive skin, cosmetics, skin physiology, hyper-reactivity, stinging.