

〈教育シリーズ〉

皮膚をみる人たちのための化粧品知識

化粧品の安全性の保証

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Safety Assurance of Cosmetic Products

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Abstract

Cosmetic companies assure their cosmetic products based on national regulations and their own internal rules. The safety of cosmetic products consists of raw material safety and practical usage safety. Regarding the safety assessment of raw materials, local and systemic toxicological endpoints are based on market histories and existing data. When existing information is insufficient, safety tests have to be conducted. Many companies have abolished animal testing on cosmetics and raw materials. However, there are significant limitations in non-animal testing alternatives currently. After the safety of a raw material is assured, its safety in product form must also be assessed. When considering safety concerns regarding practical usage, all the influencing factors, such as age, sex, and sensitivity of the target population, have to be taken into account. Likewise, the period, frequency, and topical area of use must be taken into consideration. If the products show any safety concerns, product form tests should be conducted to further ensure their safety. When companies launch their products following safety assurance procedures, they should conduct post market surveys to monitor for any adverse events. If any such events occur, the company should evaluate the contents and take suitable actions. Further to this, in 2014, the Japanese government imposed the rule on companies that they must report each case of any severe adverse events related to cosmetic use. The safety of cosmetics has been well maintained by both the regulatory system and cosmetic company care and due diligence. However, more and more innovative products are being developed, with some causing severe and broad adverse events. Safety assessors should train themselves to keep their skills and knowledge up to date and companies should enhance their survey system to catch safety problems earlier.

Key words: cosmetic products, safety, regulation, assurance.