

COVER STORY

COSMETICS SALES SPARKLE, BUT MARGINS REMAIN STRAINED

Rising raw material prices squeeze suppliers

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“The industry has really changed, with the business becoming more marketing oriented and less technical,” says one industry consultant. “There are few true innovations and unique new products, A lot now is smoke and mirrors, with variations on already existing products.” As a result, he believes a certain complacency has set in among the industry giants.

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AVICOL - AVIAN COLLAGEN POWDER
FOR COSMETIC APPLICATIONS
(Product # 12-900B)

INTRODUCTION:

The ABS Avian Collagen Powder consists of type I collagen derived from an avian source using a patented process. The mild treatment used to produce this collagen powder results in polypeptide chains having molecular weight greater than 300,000, and which have the identical amino acid composition as the native type I collagen. The product is supplied as a dry powder that can be reconstituted using dilute acetic acid (approx. 1 N).

Contact dermatitis due to cosmetic ingredients

K Remaut

In a retrospective study among 310 patients with ordinary contact dermatitis, 115 were found to have allergic contact dermatitis caused by cosmetic products. The most commonly involved sites were hands (including fingers) and face. The most frequently identified sensitizers were fragrances (including lichen and compositae extracts), preservatives and balsam of Peru. About 28% of the cutaneous reactions occurred among patients 20-29 years of age. *J Appl Cosmetol* 10(3) 73-80 (1992)

Contact allergy to propylene glycol in topical corticosteroids

JF Fowler, Jr.

Much attention recently has been focused on contact allergy to the active corticosteroid agents used in topical products. However, the vehicles and preservatives used in both prescription and over-the-counter products may also cause contact dermatitis. This report investigates a case of allergy to propylene glycol in topical corticosteroid creams. A list of currently available topicals on the US market with and without propylene glycol is included. *Amer J Cont Derm* 4(1) 37-38 (1993)

MUTAGENS FOUND IN COSMETOLOGISTS

Cosmetologists are two times more apt to have mutagens in their urine than are control workers or dental workers, who handle mercury and other toxic materials, suggests a study done at Cornell University and published in the October **Journal of Toxicology & Environmental Health**. Project leader Donald Lisk, a professor at the Cornell College of Agriculture & Life Sciences and head of the Toxic Chemicals Laboratory, said he suspects that some of the cosmetic chemicals to which cosmetologists are exposed may be a threat to human health, but have not been banned because they are not ingested and therefore are classified as a much lower priority. In a study of urinary levels in hairdressers, Lisk and his Cornell colleagues, epidemiologist Janet Scarlett and toxicologists John Babish, Xin Fang Ma and Walter Gutenmann found that almost 40 percent of the 98 cosmetologists studied had what were identified as mutagens in their urine. Dr. Lisk suggested that exposure is mainly through inhalation and skin penetration, The team found that 29 percent of the hairdressers reported skin rash problems.