

skincare that delivers

Results-driven formulations are being embraced by aesthetics industry professionals and their clients for their ability to elicit the skin's best performance. **Gillian Samuel** reports.

Chirally correct cosmeceuticals are creating a profound change in skincare, their active but also pure and non-inflammatory ingredients achieving real results for people with problem skin conditions, ageing concerns and related issues such as pigmentation. They are also gaining a following among skincare professionals and people who simply want their skin to look its best.

Advanced Skin Technology distributes three chirally correct skincare ranges that are free of parabens, sodium lauryl sulphate, propylene glycol, petrochemicals, artificial colours and synthetic fragrances: Results Rx, CosMedix and Aspect, and all three have strong advocates. Results Rx is exclusively for use in clinics with practising doctors, while the CosMedix and Aspect ranges are designed for use in high-end spas and medispas.

Aspect

Aspect cosmeceuticals uses Vitamins C and A and botanical ingredients from all over the globe, alpha hydroxy and omega acids, Alpha and Beta carotenes and trace elements such as zinc, copper, selenium and magnesium in a range of products designed to correct skin conditions from eye bags to redness or simply to stimulate the best performance from users' skin.

Perth clinic owner and registered nurse Sheri-Lee Knoop has been using the Aspect range since it was launched last year. 'The rep gave me a starter kit to try. I've been using active skincare on my own skin since the early 90s so I was not expecting any dramatic results but I noticed a change straightaway with the Aspect products.'

She says her skin was clearer and had more of a natural glow, more even tone and pigmentation started to improve within weeks of starting to use the products. 'That's an unusually quick response. Pigmentation normally takes a long time to respond and that was just from the basic C range.' She says Aspect now provides a specific product to treat pigmentation problems.

Impressed with the results on her own skin, Knoop adopted the range for use in her own salon and says that it is now one of her biggest sellers. 'Once clients have tried the starter kit they come back to buy the products. It's a generously sized starter kit, which lasts about three months, long enough to see the results.'

Knoop says she uses the range in her salon as an adjunct to cosmetic rejuvenation treatments such as Botox and fillers but that it stands alone as a basic anti-ageing improvement range.

'I think that what they've got right is that it's a very high quality product with a very affordable price point.' The Aspect range is manufactured in Australia which avoids the cost involved with imported products.

'It's the first chiral product produced here,' Knoop says. 'Advanced Skin Technology has brought chiral skin technology to Australia and produced a range every bit as good and even a bit better than imported ranges.'

Results Rx

Results Rx employs biochemistry to design formulations that work in a precise, scientific way. The pure, potent ingredients are delivered to the deeper layers of the skin through molecules that are recognised by the skin cell receptors.

There are products for use after cosmetic procedures, to target pigmentation, correct oiliness and blemishes and to maximise the skin's functionality, without causing any inflammation or irritation. The range is available only from clinics with practising doctors and the pure ingredients are in higher concentrations than most other cosmeceutical products.

Melbourne aesthetician Michelle Casey, who has been

using the range at the clinic where she works since it became available in Australia last year, says Results Rx meets the needs of patients who are looking for results they can't get from other products but who are not ready to undergo surgery.

'A lot of people aren't aware of the distinction between medical-grade products and standard skincare. The differences are the concentrations of the active ingredients, the purity and the level of the skin that they work at. It promotes healthier functioning skin instead of just camouflaging superficial dehydration.'

She says Results Rx ingredients are a lot stronger than those of any other product range she is aware of and that the results speak for themselves. 'Because the range is more potent we're getting better responses. We're using it for every skin condition: acne, rosacea, premature ageing, sun damage and pigmentation. Patients using this range come back because they can see the results, especially in terms of anti-ageing.'

Casey says she used to get Botox injections around the eye area but since using Results Rx Eye Doctor herself they are no longer necessary. The cream contains 1 percent Vitamin A which stimulates collagen and elastin production. 'There's not many patients who walk out without an Eye Doctor. I'm really passionate about it,' she says.

She says the product range can be mixed and matched for individual patients and that, rather than suggesting they completely replace their existing skincare, she recommends products that target specific conditions.





CosMedix

The chirally correct CosMedix skincare range harnesses the skin renewing properties of Vitamin A to stimulate cells into working as they do in a younger skin. As skin ages the cell turnover slows down and the papillary dermis thins, causing the skin to sag. Vitamin A kick-starts the skin to shed old cells and renew itself, creating a more youthful appearance and improving acne and pigmentation.

The products also contain Vitamin C to provide antioxidant therapy. Vitamin C is known to be the most powerful agent in preventing free radical activity, which causes the oxidation of skin cells. It protects and hydrates the skin, and helps with pigmentation because of its powerful natural lightening properties.

Cairns cosmetic clinic owner and registered nurse Lisa Price has been using the CosMedix range for seven years. 'When I opened my own business two years ago I didn't even consider having any other range. I think it's brilliant.'

Price says that people are more educated now about ingredients and are discerning about skincare products. 'The fact that the range doesn't contain any artificial ingredients or preservatives is a good selling point.'

Another factor that appeals to her is that the range itself

is simple. 'You don't have to be prescribing a lot of different things for different people. The principle ingredients are Vitamin C, Vitamin A and antioxidants, which makes them suitable for everyone but they will deliver different results, depending on the individual.'

Price says the most dramatic results she sees from clients using the range are for sun damage, pigmentation and acne.

Beyond the salon range, there are a homecare range and a number of peels. Price recommends the home care for maintaining results obtained in the salon whether clients have a skin condition or not.

The salon peels, or deep chemical treatments, vary from a walk-in, walk-out brightening treatment or a decongesting peel to help correct problems, especially in oily, acne-prone skins, through to medium depth treatments formulated to stimulate the production of collagen and elastin, with one peel particularly suited for treating melasma and stretch marks on the body.

'CosMedix is results driven. The top dermatologists and plastic surgeons in Australia use it. It's widely recognised as probably the most effective skincare available in Australia,' she says. **acsm**