



THG / LABS

Acheson

**DERMOCOSMETICS
TREND REPORT**

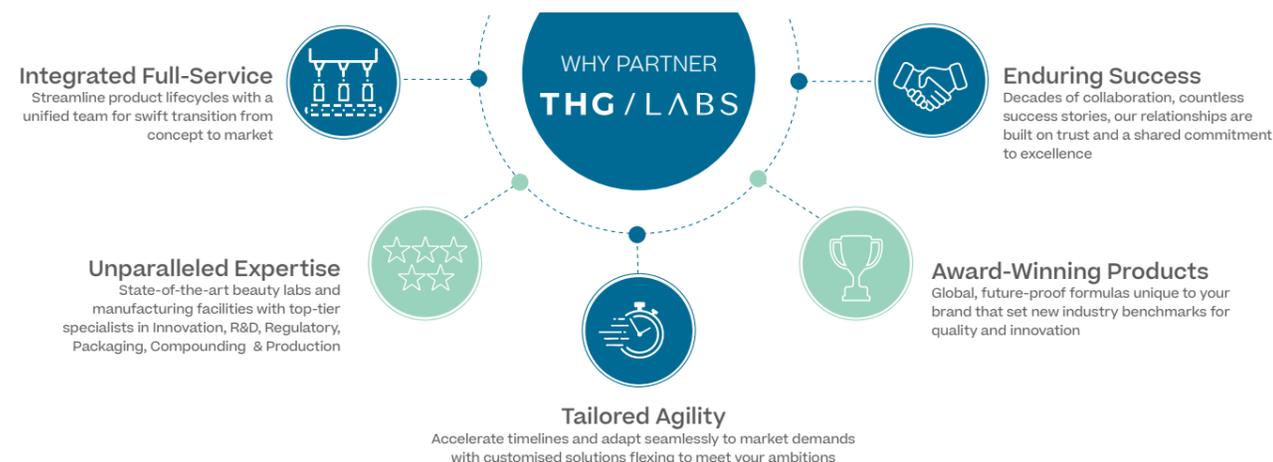
2026

THG / LABS

Your partners in beauty

For the last three decades, **THG LABS** has been the trusted UK-based private label manufacturer for global brands. Our track record is testament to our dedication in delivering to the best standards.

Starting with bespoke concept right through to your product landing on shelf, our full-service model, cutting-edge facilities, and world-class beauty expertise flex to support with seamless solutions, whether you need one, some or all our **services**.



“We’re seeing clear demand for dermocosmetic-led development, with brands increasingly drawing inspiration from ingredients, formats and testing approaches traditionally rooted in dermatology.

What’s particularly interesting is how the space is evolving: the historical divide between premium luxury skincare and dermocosmetics is narrowing, with each influencing the other. Dermocosmetics are becoming more sensorial and desirable, while luxury skincare is leaning more heavily into ingredient sophistication, efficacy and clinical credibility.

This convergence started first in facial skincare but we’re seeing the same principles migrate into haircare, bodycare and adjacent categories. This is signalling a long-term shift in how performance-led beauty products are conceived and developed and reinforcing dermocosmetics as a key driver of innovation across the market.”

Lisa Tucker
Product Development Director, **THG LABS**

THG LABS AND THE DERMOCOSMETICS SPACE

Consumer appetite for efficacy-led skincare continues to grow, driving the opportunity for brands to bridge cosmetic innovation with dermatological insight. Our role is to help beauty brands translate these evolving demands into **market-ready products** that deliver proven cosmetic performance and inspire consumer confidence and loyalty.

SCIENCE + SUBSTANCE

Our **R&D** team sits at the intersection of research and real-world delivery. Transforming clinical rigour into products that feel as desirable as they are effective, every formula we create is grounded in evidence and built to withstand scrutiny. We develop with both credibility and aspiration in mind, formulating market-leading products that deliver proven efficacy, build consumer trust, and meet regulatory standards across global markets.

INTERDISCIPLINARY DEPTH

Our **R&D** footprint spans high-performance **skincare, suncare, haircare, body care** and **fragrance**, giving us the ability to innovate holistically. Whether it’s SPF with luxury sensoriality, scalp care inspired by skin biology, or pro-ageing peptides paired with barrier actives, our multi-disciplinary team combines many decades of rich experience and are expert in fusing dermocosmetic science with market relevance.



FLAWLESS DELIVERY

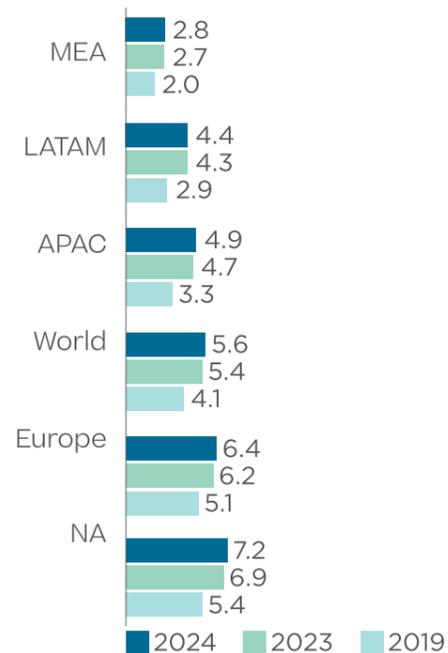
Our best-in-class **R&D**, testing lab and **manufacturing facilities** ensure breakthrough ideas move seamlessly from pilot plant to full-scale production lines capable of serving global demand. Scale, speed and consistency allow our customers to move quickly and efficiently without compromising on quality.

For further information, please get in touch
businessdevelopment@thglabs.com

The dermocosmetics sector is surging in response to consumer expectations, scientific innovation, and global stressors which are redefining modern skincare.

In 2024, skincare dermocosmetics were worth **£18.6bn**¹. They're the new engine of beauty growth, a space where science meets culture and consumers want both results and reassurance. Think of dermocosmetics as beauty's bridge: clinical efficacy woven into daily wellbeing and vitality framed as the ultimate luxury. It's fast become a sector brands can no longer afford to overlook.

WEIGHT OF DERMOCOSMETICS INTO BPC MARKET
% OF RETAIL SALES DERMOCOS BPC INTO BPC RETAIL SALES



SOURCE DATA: EUROMONITOR



> KEY TO THE CATEGORY

Expanding horizons: category migration into a more luxury space, across body, scalp and haircare.

An **evolving focus** on the longevity and healthspan of skin, underscoring the desire for long term resilience, protection and vitality across all life stages while also addressing cosmetic concerns.

Sensitivity becomes strategic: More than half of all consumers globally now claim to have sensitive skin, and the external and intrinsic triggers keep stacking up. New approaches and clinically effective actives are providing soothing strategies across the dermocosmetic market.

Stress is showing up in our skin as barrier breakdown, acne flare-ups, discomfort and inflammation. The psychodermatology connection is sparking a generation of multi-functional products which address the skin's physical needs alongside consumers' emotional wellbeing.

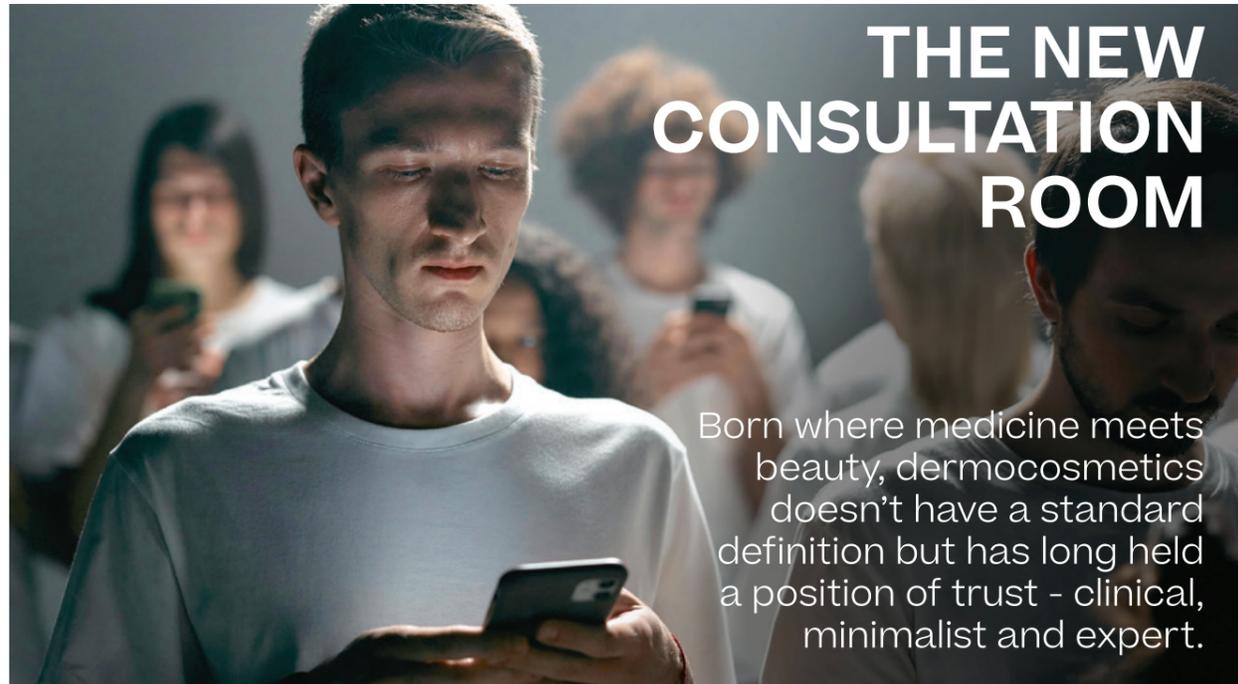
Seismic shifts are playing out with the rise of GLP-1 medications (like Ozempic and Mounjaro). These treatments are reshaping aesthetic ideals and creating new skincare needs. Menopause has become a mainstream beauty conversation and inclusivity is a pre-requisite.

> FUTURE OF DERMOCOSMETICS

What began as a clinical solution is evolving into a more holistic experience - where precision meets pleasure, and quick fixes give way to preventative, personalised care.

Clinical efficacy and credibility are expected by consumers who want solution driven skincare. Now they also want cosmetics that combine a luxury look and feel with sophisticated storytelling and elevated experience designed for modern wellbeing. This has created the right conditions for dermocosmetics to jump the pharmacy counter.

We're seeing this category mainstream in prestige retail, DTC platforms, and hybrid channels. For brands, there's a clear pathway to meet consumers in this new space where efficacy, empathy and lifestyle meet.



THE NEW CONSULTATION ROOM

Born where medicine meets beauty, dermocosmetics doesn't have a standard definition but has long held a position of trust - clinical, minimalist and expert.

Once confined to white coats and waiting rooms, this cosmetics category has evolved into a new hybrid of science and lifestyle, bridging prescription heritage with digital-era desirability.

Historically rooted in European pharmacy culture, as pioneered by La Roche-Posay, Avène and Vichy, dermocosmetics were defined by safe, effective, solution-driven formulas. Dermatologist-endorsed and designed with compromised skin in mind, they focused on delivering visible results through simplicity and tolerance. The category now more than ever resonates with current demands and is being redefined by a new consumer dynamic: informed, proactive and emotionally invested in skin health.

WHAT ARE DERMOCOSMETICS?

Personal care formulations developed at the intersection of cosmetic science and dermatology designed to actively support skin health, function, and resilience. They combine clinically validated ingredients and dermatological testing with cosmetic elegance, for targeted solutions that improve the skin's condition and appearance without compromising skin integrity, while remaining within cosmetic regulations.

RESILIENCE FOR THE YOUNG, REASSURANCE FOR THE SEASONED

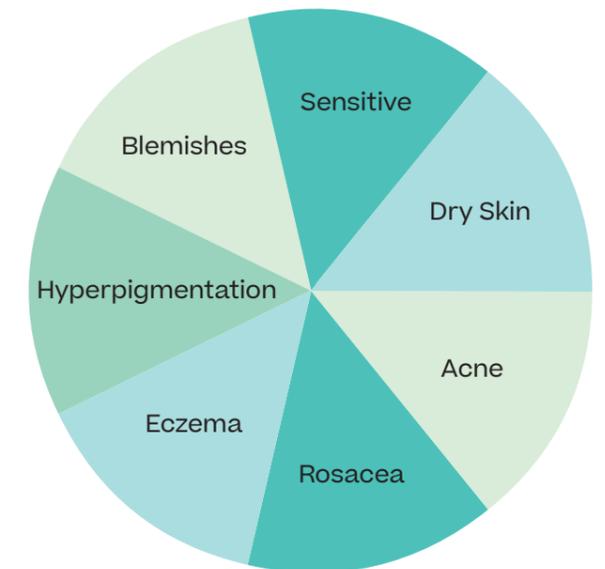
With 40% of Gen Z and Millennials buying dermocosmetics without a doctor's consultation², trust is being co-created through education, transparency and experience.

- > Gen Z & Millennials adopt actives early, blending dermatologist-backed formulas with intuitive, lifestyle-based routines.
- > Gen X & Boomers seek reassurance through sensitivity-proof, recovery care and clinically-approved claims.

SKINCARE ADVICE STARTS WITH A SCROLL

Fuelled by the rise of the "educated skinfluencer", dermocosmetics has been elevated to mainstream online culture, driving mass players to premiumise and luxury brands to step into the derm space.

WHEEL OF SKIN CONDITIONS



TikTok

Rising interest in #healthylifestyle when related to Dermocosmetics (2.1M views) shows skin health is now an investment, while immediate visual concerns still dominate — led by #acne (3.3M), #hyperpigmentation (368K) and #sensitiveskin (373K), positioning dermocosmetics as the bridge between instant correction and long-term resilience.

SOURCE: SPATE

MARKET OVERVIEW

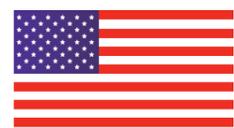
The global dermocosmetic market was valued at £14.8 billion in 2019 and increased by 63.4% to reach £25.8 billion in 2024 which represents 4.9% of the Global Beauty & Personal Care (BPC) market. This expansion highlights the sector's resilience and the growing consumer demand for science-backed, efficacy-driven skincare solutions.

2019: £14.8bn
2024: £25.8bn
63.4% increase

Dermocosmetics is the second top growing category within BPC in 2024 with a **+6% CAGR**, showing a move beyond niche status to become a mainstream segment within global skincare.

Both established and emerging regions present opportunities: mature markets are driving value through innovation and premium offerings, while high-growth regions provide volume expansion through wider access and rising consumer education.

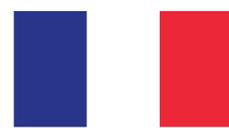
In 2024, facial dermocosmetics accounted for 57.68% of dermocosmetic BPC. Led by:



USA
(27.4%)



China
(23.5%)

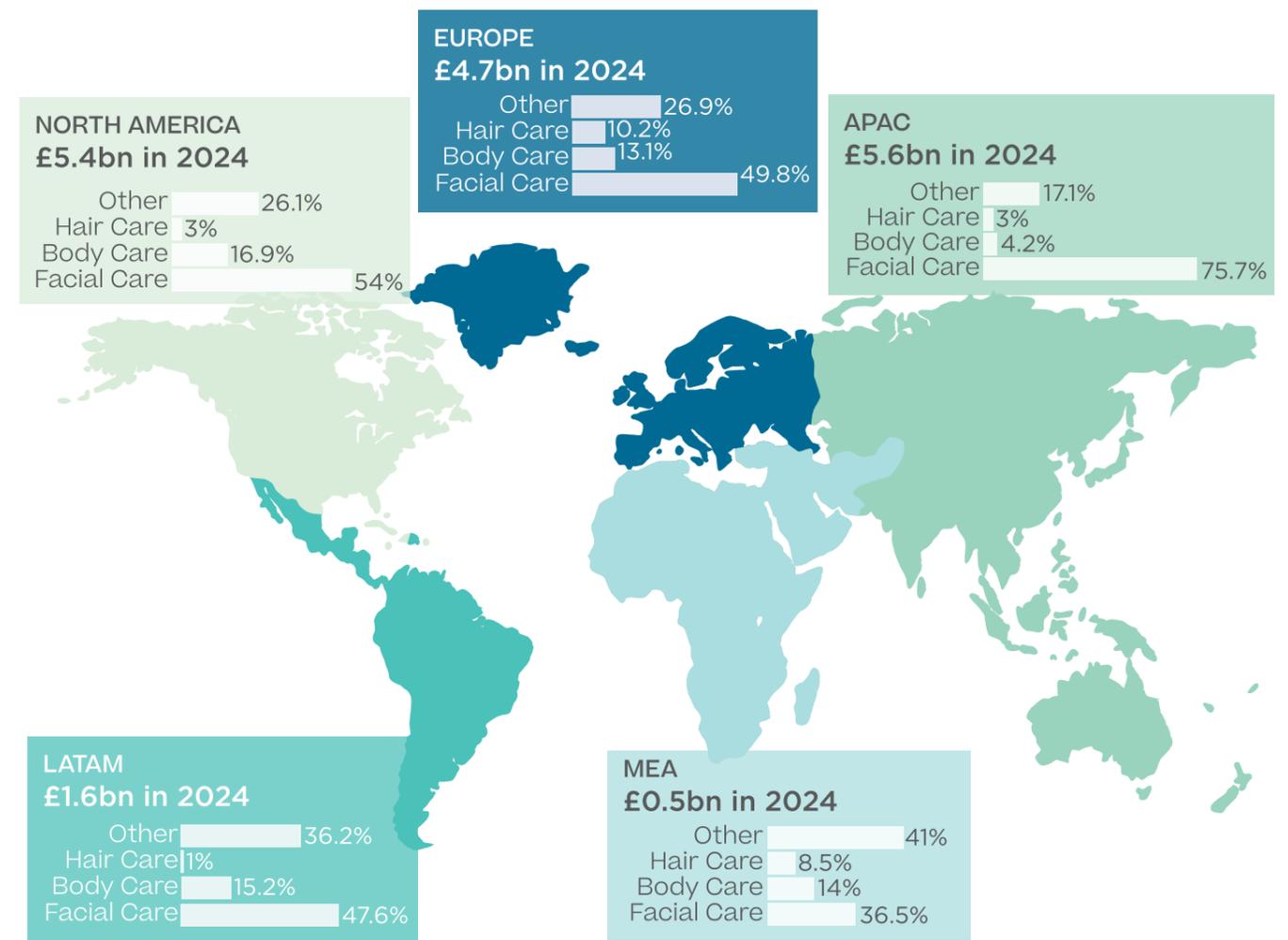


France
(5.6%)

REGIONAL DATA

BPC Dermocosmetics

APAC is leading with 31.6% of this market, closely followed by North America (30.2%) and Europe (26.3%).



THE REGULATORY & CLAIMS LANDSCAPE

As Dermocosmetics blur the line between skincare and science, global regulations are tightening the rules of proof, making “clinically proven” more than just a marketing promise, but a benchmark for trust and transparency.

Consumer expectations also vary widely across regions, reflecting deeply rooted cultural and lifestyle differences that need to be considered when developing products.



Our in-house Regulatory team helps map out the ambition for your product at the outset, providing guidance on development, testing and manufacturing processes required to launch a compliant cosmetic formulation.

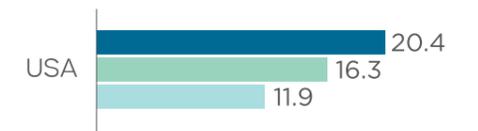
USA

REGULATIONS

- > Sunscreens, acne, anti-dandruff = OTC drug monographs.
- > Words implying disease/structure-function change (“treats psoriasis,” “heals eczema”) drug. “Cosmeceutical” has no legal meaning.
- > Claims substantiation: competent & reliable scientific evidence (often at least one well-designed clinical; consumer perception alone not enough for strong claims).

Top Popular BENEFITS related to Dermocosmetics:
Anti-aging / healthy skin / soothing / dewy skin / glow*

£ SPENT PER CAPITA ON DERMOCOSMETICS BPC
EUROMONITOR



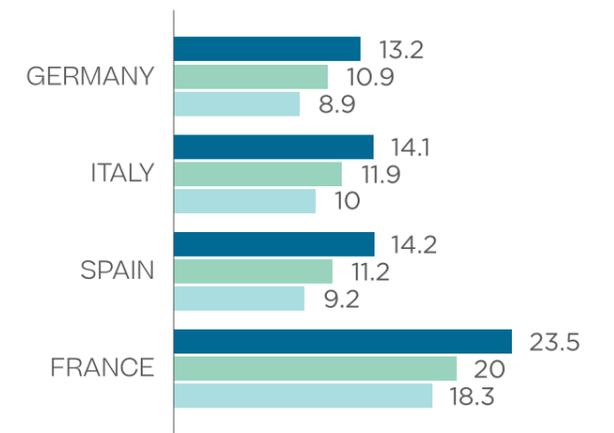
EU

REGULATIONS OVERVIEW

More specific in each of the 26 countries

- > Sunscreens and dandruff solutions are cosmetics.
- > Medical claims such as ‘treats acne’, ‘soothes inflammation’ are banned; functional claims relating to appearance (e.g. “reinforces skin’s moisture barrier,” - supported by TEWL studies or “improves appearance of redness”) are considered acceptable cosmetic claims.
- > Claims: Reg. (EU) 655/2013 “Common Criteria” (6 tests: legal compliance, truthfulness, evidential support, honesty, fairness, informed decision-making).

Top Popular BENEFITS related to Dermocosmetics in France: Deep hydration / anti-aging / dermatologist recommended / healthy skin*

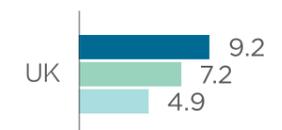


UK

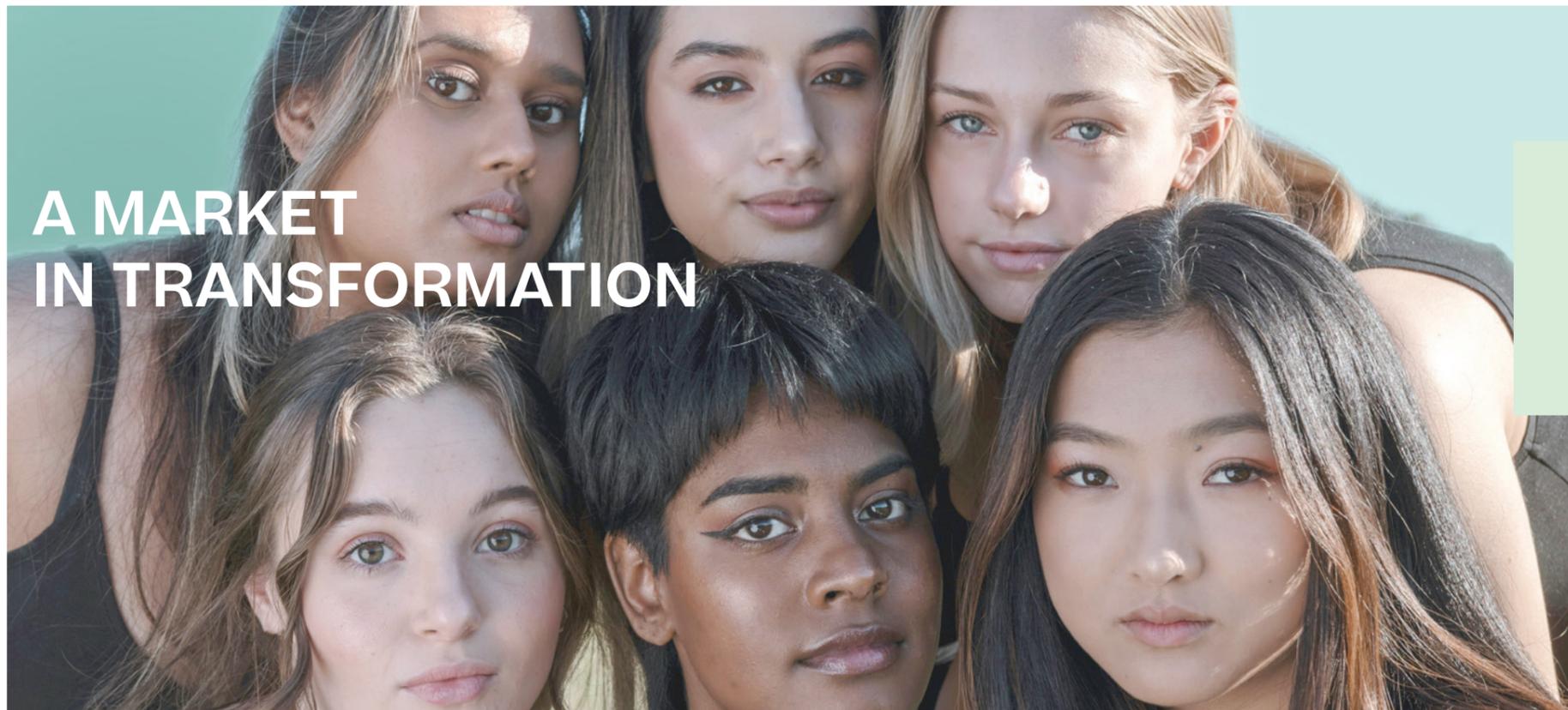
REGULATIONS

- > Mirrors EU rules via UK Cosmetics Regulation (Schedule 34 of the Product Safety and Metrology Statutory Instrument (UK regulation) legally retained regulation (EC) 1233/2009)
- > Advertisement regulations are enforced by ASA/CAP who ensure acceptable cosmetic claims are made, “clinically proven” must be supported with evidence.

Top Popular BENEFITS related to Dermocosmetics:
Healthy skin / glow / soothing / anti-aging / cleansing / SPF*



* SPATE



A MARKET IN TRANSFORMATION



SKIN LONGEVITY

Instagram : **+541.1%** YoY posts increase on Global Market (Oct. '24 vs Oct '25)

SOURCE: SPATE

THE PREVENTATIVE MINDSET

Consumers want smooth, glowing and healthy complexions, but as everyday pressures on skin intensify, they also want resilience. Rather than waiting for damage to appear, we're seeing a desire to move early and future-proof the skin for decades to come. Smart, dermocosmetic formulas have become the connection between beauty, health and skin confidence.

EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF PREVENTION TO LONGEVITY

The longevity boom has a potential partner in dermocosmetics. Both trade in science, offering long-term optimisation, and repositioning ageing as resilience. Dermocosmetics has scope to make longevity science practical and relatable, turning complex research into desirable evidence-backed routines consumers can understand and trust. Tapping into molecular and cellular science, longevity beauty is a long-term opportunity that encourages a preventative and rejuvenating approach, built on the principles of ageing well.

Globally, the Dermocosmetics online/ e-commerce segment is expected to grow at a CAGR of +12% over the next 10 years

SOURCE: PRECEDENCE RESEARCH

#doctoroftiktok
5.2B views over the
last 3 years

'Skin doctors'
+33.4% YoY increase
Google Searches
SOURCE: SPATE



**FROM PHARMACY TO LIFESTYLE:
THE RETAIL EVOLUTION**

Pharmacies remain the beating heart of dermocosmetics, capturing 30% of global sales in 2024*. Their trusted expertise and professional guidance continue to anchor the category by being a go-to destination for consumers seeking science-backed skincare for solution-led credible advice. The segment is now experiencing a revolution due to digital technology and rising e-commerce business. Pioneering dermocosmetic brands are elevating clinical care with everyday rituals that embrace sensoriality, design and direct-to-consumer connection.



"Tweakments" are reshaping traditional skincare routines, with 35% of US respondents saying they will change their skincare routine after getting a procedure.

SOURCE: NIELSENIQ

Recovery care is becoming a new frontier: global aesthetic procedures market exceeding **\$15bn**

SOURCE: MARKETS AND MARKETS, 2023

DR BRANDS

Doctors are starring in the brands they are creating, fronting the products rather than just approving them. Merging luxe aesthetics and sensorial pleasure with clinical credibility, they are transforming medical expertise into precision skin care that targets post-procedure recovery and specific skin concerns.

THE NEW AGE OF PROCEDURAL SKINCARE

Aesthetic treatments have become part of the modern beauty routine, giving rise to a new category: post-procedure care. There's a growing group of consumers seeking skincare that bridges the clinic and the daily ritual, dermo-grade efficacy with a luxurious, sensorial edge.

The "Recovery" phase is now aspirational. Pre- and post-treatment formulas that calm, repair and protect collagen are gaining traction, however dermocosmetics designed for post-laser, injectable or resurfacing recovery remain underdeveloped. Brands addressing this "in-between" phase with clinically validated, dermatologist-endorsed cosmetic solutions can earn trust at a pivotal moment in the consumer journey, strengthening both loyalty and authority.

This growing focus on recovery and repair marks a wider shift: consumers are embracing correction as self-care. From topical repair to internal reset, this mindset is redefining beauty care on all levels.



“OZEMPIC FACE”

Sagging due to rapid fat loss from GLP-1 drugs like Ozempic.

12% of U.S. adults have taken GLP-1 drugs and **14%** are interested in taking them¹

24m expected users by **2035**²

GLP-1 CULTURE AND CORRECTIVE WHITE SPACE

This correctional approach is also unfolding beneath the surface. NAD+ shots and collagen supplement debates illustrate how consumers now see the most powerful solutions as those that work from within. For beauty, this reframes topicals as companions to aesthetic treatments, such as Sculptra, which stimulate skin's own collagen over time, resonating with consumers already primed for intervention that supports long term regeneration.

The rise of Ozempic, Wegovy and Mounjaro is further reshaping our bodies and beauty routines. Rapid weight loss is driving new concerns (eg.sagging, volume and elasticity loss, hair thinning) creating demand for dermocosmetics that meet the needs of their new reality. GLP-1 adoption is accelerating the normalisation of injectables and ingestibles and blurring the boundaries between dermatology and wellness, opening a fast-emerging segment with few established players and clear first-mover advantage. This is white space for dermocosmetics to lead – delivering science-driven formulas that are adjacent to these new approaches.

“OZEMPIC FACE”

Google 368K avg. monthly searches >1,000% YOY

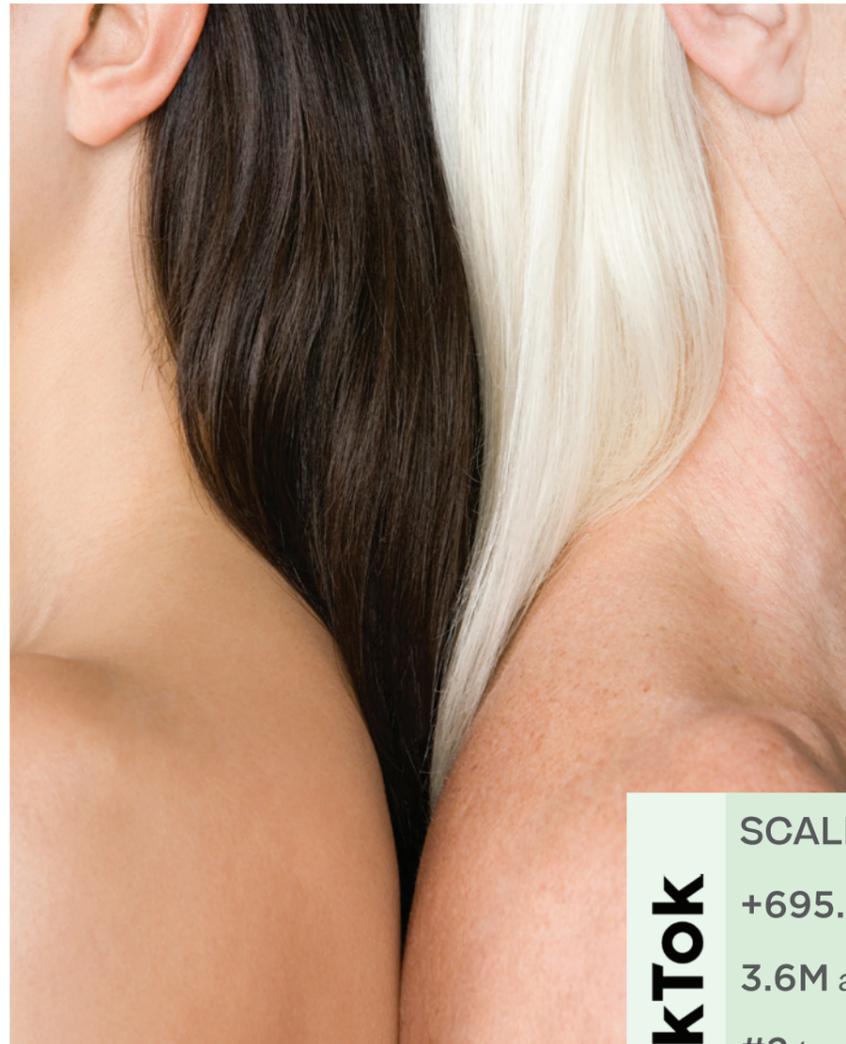
TikTok 1.6M avg. weekly views

SOURCE: SPATE

¹ RAND AMERICAN LIFE PANEL
² MORGAN STANLEY RESEARCH

THE FULL-BODY FUTURE OF DERM SCIENCE

The trust and credibility fuelling demand for dermocosmetics is now migrating to body care, scalp health, and wellness-adjacent formats. Reflecting the consumer belief that skin health is holistic, there is a new demand for head-to-toe products formulated to minimise irritation.



FACE-IFICATION OF BODY CARE/ BODY CARE 2.0

Body care is becoming a science-led category tackling barrier repair, elasticity, pigmentation and body breakouts with the same precision once reserved for the face. A new no-taboo area is emerging between “ugly beauty” and zonal care – treating every concern from ingrown hairs to back acne with well-known hero molecules, smart delivery systems and sensorial pleasure. It is hybrid, high-performance and proudly unapologetic.

TikTok

SCALP ACNE (GLOBAL)

+695.3% YoY

3.6M avg. weekly views (Oct 25)

#2 top growing subcategory after scalp health (10.1M views) +6.6M YoY

SOURCE: SPATE

THE SKIN-SMART SCALP MOVEMENT

38% of the dermocosmetic market value¹ is addressing hair and scalp care. As understanding on the importance of the scalp microbiome and relationship between follicle health and hair quality deepens, the dermo-scalp space is becoming fertile ground for innovation to tackle dryness, dandruff, irritation and sensitivity.

Searches for #scalpmicrobiome are exploding (+667% YoY on Instagram²), driven by concerns such as menopause-related changes, sensitivity and hair thinning. This new segment positioning could also address post-procedure recovery care (e.g., after hair treatments, colour, extensions).

CHINA DERMOCOSMETICS HAIR CARE MARKET RETAIL VALUE

£17.2M in 2019

£75.5M in 2024

SOURCE: EUROMONITOR

NEW EMERGING MARKETS: DERMO SEAL IS REACHING THE HOLISTIC WELLNESS SPACE

Wellness-adjacent products ranging from ingestible and patches to IV drips and functional fragrances, signal the broadening competitive set. New launches with the derm-approved seal into categories like laundry or fragrance are showing that the consumer is aware of skin ecosystem disruptors and ready for more holistic solutions.

GLOBAL BODYCARE DERMOCOSMETICS RETAIL VALUE IN GBP BN

SOURCE: EUROMONITOR



¹ PRECEDENCE RESEARCH
² SPATE

BATTLEGROUND FOR SKIN HEALTH

Skin is recognised as a living, breathing organ that mirrors the pressures of modern life. From stress to pollution, overstimulation is pushing skin to its limits.

Consumers are looking for defence systems that keep skin strong, balanced and healthy over time. Dermocosmetics provides these precision engineered, solution led formulations with clinically proven results.



79% of UK adults are reporting regular stress cortisol-driven flare-ups and compromised resilience are now part of everyday reality

(SOURCE: CIPD, 2023)

EXPOSOME AND STRESS

Skin is under attack: external aggressors such as UV, pollution and High Energy Visible (HEV) light are fast-tracking oxidative damage and increasing hyperpigmentation and premature ageing.

With 79% of adults under regular stress¹, prolonged increased cortisol levels are silently fuelling inflammation and barrier breakdown.

Searches for “**barrier repair skincare**” are soaring +110% YoY

(SOURCE: GOOGLE, 2024)

By 2050, nearly 70% of the world’s population will live in cities.²



CONTEMPORARY LIVING & THE MICROBIOME

Current lifestyles with processed diets, digital saturation, hormonal shifts, late nights and poor sleep are the new bogeyman of barrier damage, disturbing the delicate ecosystem of the skin microbiome. This leaves skin more reactive and less tolerant, increasing its vulnerability to environmental assault.

In response, brands are borrowing cues from gut health and functional foods. They are formulating with prebiotics, postbiotics and microbiome-friendly complexes to restore equilibrium and position balance as beauty’s most modern aspiration.

MULTIFUNCTIONALITY AS MODERN ARMOUR

Consumers are favouring hybrid skincare that delivers multi-tasking benefits - shielding against aggressions while actively restoring compromised skin for a healthy, glowing complexion.

THE TAKEAWAY

Skin is under siege from every angle - environmental, lifestyle and emotional.

These forces are reshaping the very definition of skin ‘health’ and have established the conditions underpinning the dermocosmetic landscape.

¹ CIPD, 2023

² UNITED NATIONS

WHERE SCIENCE AND EMOTION CONVERGE

Stress is a real driver of dermocosmetic demand.

The term 'psychodermatology' has leaped out of the academic journals and onto the shelves with the skin-mind connection becoming part of brands' beauty conversations with consumers. Once treated as separate realms, mental and skin health are now recognised as a single system and we're seeing a rise in Neurocosmetics actives, sensorial cues and calming rituals being used as stress buffers and mood boosters.



STRESS & SKIN: WHEN THE MIND LEAVES A MARK

Stress is an emotional state, a biological trigger that can increase dryness, blemishes, sensitivity and chronic medical conditions such as psoriasis, eczema, rosacea and acne. They all flare up under emotional strain, as stress hormones weaken the barrier, increase inflammation, and disrupt the microbiome - reminding us that emotional balance is part of skincare, too.

And it's a vicious feedback loop - skin issues are also a source of stress and self-consciousness, which exacerbates the cortisol peak, impacting skin confidence. Over time, this "inflammaging" cycle weakens the barrier, alters skin texture (sometimes even permanently), and leaves lasting marks like uneven tone and hyperpigmentation.



THE NEW SCIENCE OF COMFORT

Beyond restoring the skin, the new wave of 'joycare' transforms dermocosmetics into a daily act of emotional and physical wellbeing for holistic long-term results. Bridging neuroscience and sensoriality, blending emotion enhancing actives and beautiful textures can help boost mind and skin recovery.

Uplifting packaging, skin-mind recovery routines, mood-lifting scents and multi-sensorial rituals adapted to compromised skin will redefine clinical care as a joyful experience, proving that the future of skin health feels as good as it looks.

“Our multidisciplinary expertise brings together scientific precision with a deep understanding of human response, enabling us to develop dermocosmetic formulations that resonate on both a physiological and emotional level.”

Across Innovation, R&D and Regulatory, we take an integrated, evidence-led approach to development that considers not only clinical performance, but also how a formulation is experienced in use. By embedding emotional and sensorial assessment alongside physical skin evaluation, we are able to generate robust claim support that reflects real-world product performance, skin comfort and skin-mind wellbeing.”

Dr. Catherine Leray
Account Head of R&D, THG LABS

PSYCHODERMATOLOGY

Google **7.3K Global Searches in August 2025**
+87.1% YoY

Global Search - from Sep 2024 to Aug 2025 vs. Sep 2023 to Aug 2024

SOURCE: SPATE



BREAKOUTS KNOW NO BOUNDARIES

Blemishes are not just a teenage rite of passage - for some, their appearance can happen during different life stages. Hormones, stress and urban lifestyles have turned acne into a growing theme of adulthood, including post-menopause.¹

The condition affects more than 640 million people across the globe, with the biggest risk factor being heredity.² For many, it's not just a cosmetic issue, it impacts negatively on their quality of life, possibly linked to anxiety, low self-esteem, symptoms of depression and social stress.¹

THE GENDER GAP

Across markets, women are more affected than men in adult acne (only ~3% of men suffer adult acne) and the data speaks clearly: 12-22% of adult women in the U.S. and 41% of French women report acne beyond adolescence – half of them for the first time in their lives. The types of hormones causing acne are different for each gender and hormonal fluctuations should guide formulation design to sync with gender-specific biology and cycles.³

Adult acne in women has increased 10% worldwide over the past 10 years

SOURCE: DERMATOLOGY TIMES.

#acne is the top hashtag in skin concerns

157bn Global total views

26.3bn US Total views

4.3bn UK Total views

SOURCE: SPATE

Among adults (≥ 20 years), self-report data found that **73.3%** of respondents had experienced acne at some point (though this includes teenage onset)⁴

MICROBIOTA APPROACH

The next wave of acne care goes beyond killing bacteria – it's about rebalancing them. With growing concern over antibiotic resistance, innovation is shifting toward microbiome modulation: restoring harmony rather than wiping it out. From tailored postbiotics to microbiome-communication disruptors, science is redefining clear skin as healthy ecosystem management, not microbial warfare.

BLEMISH TREATMENTS REINVENTED

Acne care is an example of evolving sophistication and delivery with microbiome-friendly, barrier-respecting, inflammation-targeting solutions. The global anti-acne dermal patch market is expected to reach **\$870.3m by 2030⁵**, with new technologies enabling precision targeting and discreet, effective treatment. This signals white space for dermocosmetic brands to innovate beyond creams into next-generation formats.

FUTURE: THE NEW REALITY OF ACNE CARE

Consumers are navigating hormonal cycles, burnout and deadlines - the effects of these are showing up on the skin. Dermocosmetic innovation is responding with “adult editions” of blemish care. Treatments have come a long way with products going beyond the gold standard retinoids that balance clarity and care, tackling both breakouts and wrinkles with clinical precision and emotional empathy. A new wave of products also targets what blemishes leave behind: texture, scars, and post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation. This emerging category blends mild resurfacing and soothing actives to rebuild skin confidence – marking the shift from breakout control to true skin recovery.

IN THE U.S., ACNE IS THE MOST COMMON SKIN CONDITION - AFFECTING UP TO 50 MILLION AMERICANS ANNUALLY (ALL AGES)

SOURCE: AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION (2025)

¹ INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF WOMEN'S HEALTH

² INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF DERMATOLOGY

³ DERMATOLOGY TIMES

⁴ WWW.SCIENCEDIRECT.COM/SCIENCE/ARTICLE/ABS/PII/S019096220701081X?UTM

⁵ GRAND VIEW RESEARCH (2023)

EXPANDING THE SPECTRUM OF DERMOCOSMETIC CARE

Dermocosmetics is entering a new era of inclusivity - where science finally embraces every shade, age, and stage of skin. From menopausal resilience to melanin-rich care, brands, R&D teams and clinical testing houses are expected to develop solutions beyond “universal” and deliver proven precision solutions that reflect the full spectrum of human beauty, addressing these emerging challenges.

Dermatologists and AI models are less accurate in diagnosing conditions on darker skins. In a study, diagnostic accuracy dropped from 38% to 34% when the images depicted darker skin.¹

ADVANCING DERM CARE FOR EVERY SKIN TONE

In a review of cosmetic dermatology literature: out of 5,175 studies screened, only around 11% met inclusion criteria for skin-of-colour relevance, and only approximately 4% reported Fitzpatrick scale data.²



KEY DERMATOLOGICAL ISSUES IN DARKER SKIN TONES

- > Post-Inflammatory Hyperpigmentation (PIH) is the most common concern
- > Eczema / Atopic Dermatitis leave more severe barrier disruption and more visible pigment changes (darkening or light patches after healing).
- > Melasma is 3-5x more common in women of colour (especially Asian, Hispanic, Middle Eastern).
- > Acne is equally common but heals differently – every pimple risks a dark mark.

SCIENCE-BACKED CARE FOR MENOPAUSAL SKIN

As hormones shift with age, skin becomes fragile, reactive and thirstier than ever – demanding formulas that rebuild, not just soothe. Dermocosmetics are stepping up with science-backed care designed for hormonal imbalance, repair and resilience. No longer a taboo, there's a clear demand for products that tackle the many different individual concerns associated with menopausal skin. In 2024, search interest for “menopause skincare” grew on Google **+150% YoY**³ demonstrating a real interest in the category.

In the UK, it is estimated that there are around 13 million people who are currently peri or menopausal in the UK which is equivalent to a third of the entire UK female population.⁴

MORE THAN 80% OF WOMEN WILL BE MENOPAUSAL BY AGE 54⁵

FUTURE: DERMATOLOGY AND DIVERSITY

By harnessing decades of dermatological expertise and applying it to diverse consumer needs, the category is set to evolve into a more representative and vibrant space – where every tone, type, and texture is considered.

By 2025, 1 billion women were in menopause, 12% of the global population⁶



¹ MIT NEWS (FEB 2024)

² ARCHIVES OF DERMATOLOGICAL RESEARCH

³ SPATE

⁴ NHS

⁵ BRITISH MENOPAUSE SOCIETY

⁶ MATURITAS JOURNAL OF THE CLIMACTERIC & POSTMENOPAUSE

INGREDIENT INTEL

The strength of dermocosmetics lies in their science, where innovation and education must work together. For brands, the challenge is less about what ingredients to use and more about how to deliver them, explain them and differentiate in an increasingly complex market.

HERO ACTIVES

Retinoids, Vitamin C, ceramides, niacinamide and peptides remain the pillars of dermocosmetic efficacy, but what matters now is how they are used and how they are delivered. Brands harnessing these cornerstone actives can ensure they are optimised by innovating around delivery systems, improving stabilisation, and skin tolerance for face and body care formats.

As formulators, we have seen demand for gentle retinoid alternatives (bioretinols such as bakuchiol) and encapsulated retinal technologies that preserve efficacy while reducing irritation. For example, INdermal's liposomes and biomimetic exosomes are inspired by pharmaceutical delivery techniques and use custom designed membrane stabilisers, edge activators and penetration enhancers in their encapsulation technology to specifically deliver actives more effectively to targets within the skin.



BIOTECH BREAKTHROUGHS

As formulators our ingredient map is being reshaped by precision fermentation technologies and lab-grown actives. Ceramides are being reimaged by the latest AI led precision fermentation to improve solubility and low temperature use. Niacinamide and peptides are also experiencing a new wave of biotech led technology to improve efficacy and reduce irritation potential. Advanced biomimetic ingredients such as peptides and bio-identical collagen are being created to produce higher efficacy actives that avoid petrochemical sources and support non-animal alternatives to key hero ingredients.

Representing some of the most exciting frontiers, these innovations offer performance and consistency gains while strengthening supply security and reducing environmental impact.

Top Popular INGREDIENTS related to Dermocosmetics according to Spate popularity index

(based on Google, TikTok & Instagram)

US	UK	FRANCE
Caffeine	Retinol	Centella Asiatica
Vitamins	Ectoin	Hyaluronic Acid
Propolis	Niacinamide	Prebiotics
Collagen	EGF	BHA
Retinol	Hyaluronic Acid	AHA
Vit A	Ceramide	Glycolic Acid
Retinoic Acid	Tranexamic Acid	

WHERE YOUR BRAND CAN WIN

The new era of Dermocosmetics belongs to those who marry rigour with resonance. Hero actives will remain the anchor, biotech the engine of change, and hybridisation the format of the future. However, the brands that win will be the ones that take complexity and make it aspirational, credible and beautifully simple.

1 A TRUSTED COMPANION FOR MODERN LIVING

Moving from niche to necessity, environmental and emotional stressors are driving a rise in sensitive, reactive skin, positioning dermocosmetics as an everyday essential for modern life.

> **THG LABS** translates today's skin needs into science-backed solutions with every product designed to meet the pace and pressures of contemporary living.

2 AGEING WELL MEETS INCLUSIVITY

A new generation of dermocosmetics are addressing diverse skin types, tones, and life stages. From menopausal to multifaceted hybrid formulas, inclusivity and ageing well are becoming the new skin standards.

> **THG LABS** has access to a network of best-in-class suppliers. We source the latest efficacious ingredients and can design custom materials when a project demands something truly unique. Our in-lab equipment enables real-time data capture and instrumental claim substantiation to optimise performance.

3 PREMIUMISE WITH LIFESTYLE BENEFITS

Consumers are seeking clinical credibility and sensorial appeal. The fusion of scientific rigour with ritual, luxurious textures, neurocosmetic stress care, longevity, and next-gen ingredients are defining the new premium.

> **THG LABS** cosmetic chemists and technicians specialise in texture engineering and ingredient synergy that elevates science into sensorial experiences. By integrating neurocosmetic actives and testing for both efficacy and sensory response, we help brands deliver clinically credible products that engage the senses and enhance wellbeing - all with scalable, consistent manufacturing quality.

4 DERMATISATION OF PERSONAL CARE

Dermocosmetic principles are expanding beyond facial skincare into new territories with migration into bodycare, haircare, scalp care, post-procedure recovery, home care, and even Ozempic adjacent skincare to support GLP-1 treatment.

> **THG LABS** has extensive R&D expertise across skincare, sun care, and haircare, applying dermocosmetic science to new formats and categories. Coupled with state-of-the-art production lines and cross-functional technical collaboration, we help brands take clinically inspired concepts from idea to large-scale launch, efficiently and flawlessly.

Contact businessdevelopment@thglabs.com to discover more

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Co-Authors

- > **Aurelie Brunel**
Technical Innovation Manager, THG LABS
- > **Kristal Goodman**
Head of Product Innovation, THG LABS

Sources

- > **American Academy of Dermatology Association**
- > **British Menopause Society:**
Tools For Clinicians Report – Information For GPs And Other Health Professionals
- > **CIPD**
- > **Dermatology Times:**
A Look at the Rise in Adult Acne in Women (Oct 2022)
- > **Euromonitor:**
Beauty & Personal Care 2023 / Skin Health & Dermocosmetics Briefing.
Passport 2025
- > **Grand View Research**
- > **International Journal of Dermatology:**
Dagnelie MA, Poinas A, Dréno B. What Is New In Adult Acne For The Last 2 Years: Focus On Acne Pathophysiology And Treatments. 2022;61(10):1205-1212. Doi:10.1111/ijd.16220
- > **International Journal of Women's Health:**
Unveiling the Nuances of Adult Female Acne: A Comprehensive Exploration of Epidemiology, Treatment Modalities, Dermocosmetics, and the Menopausal Influence.
- > **Maturitas Journal of the Climacteric & Postmenopause**
The Demography of Menopause. Hill K. 1996 Mar;23(2):113-27. doi: 10.1016/0378-5122(95)00968-x
- > **MIT News**
- > **Morgan Stanley Research:**
Sizing the GLP-1 Opportunity (2023)
- > **NHS:**
Menopause In the Workplace
- > **NielsenIQ:**
State of Beauty 2025 Report
- > **Precedence Research:**
Dermocosmetics Skin Care Products Market Size, Share, and Trends 2025 to 2034
- > **RAND:**
American Life Panel Survey Data, April–May 2025
- > **Science Direct.com:**
www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S019096220701081X?utm
- > **Spate:**
- > **United Nations:**
Department of Economic and Social Affairs: World Urbanization Prospects (The 2018 Revision)



THG / LABS

Acheson