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LIPOSOMAL COSMECEUTICALS: NEW ERA OF ANTI-AGEING FORMULATIONS.

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ABSTRACT

Cosmeceuticals are cosmetic products with biologically active ingredients purporting to have medical or drug-like benefits. Some cosmeceuticals can act effectively when reaching their target sites in the deeper layers of the skin. However, the barrier nature of skin causes significant difficulties for compounds to be delivered through. Therefore, scientists are investigating various strategies to overcome these barrier properties. Liposomes have been claimed to improve the topical delivery of compounds. This review deals with the potential of liposomes as a skin delivery system for cosmeceuticals, with a focus on the clinical application of liposomes. The topical application of liposomes offers a wide range of advantages including increased moisturization, restoring action, biodegradability, biocompatibility and extended and slow dermal release. The incorporation of cosmeceuticals using suitable delivery systems is important in the management of cosmetic disorders.

KEYWORDS: cosmeceuticals, dermatology, drug carrier, liposomes, topical delivery.

1. INTRODUCTION

The human skin consists of three distinct layers: the epidermis, dermis, and subcutaneous layers. Among these, the epidermis is composed of stratum germinativum and stratum corneum (SC) and forms a protective barrier against the loss of moisture and electrolytes from the body and thus maintains normal skin physiology.[1] In the SC, the corneocytes produced from a proliferating keratinocyte are surrounded by the lamellar bodies of lipids, including ceramides, cholesterol, and fatty acids. Natural moisturizing factor (NMF), which is exclusively observed in the corneocytes of the SC, is a group of naturally occurring hydrophilic components including free amino acids, pyrrolidone carboxylic acid, lactate,