

# Trends in Dermocosmetics Use among the Albanian Population during the Period 2019-2020

Eftiola Pojani<sup>1\*</sup>, Silvi Bozo<sup>2</sup>, Ervisa Sado<sup>3</sup>, Irsida Mehmeti<sup>4</sup>, Elena Capparelli<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of the Chemical-Toxicological and Pharmacological Evaluation of Drugs, Faculty of Pharmacy, Catholic University "Our Lady of Good Counsel", Tirana, Albania

<sup>2</sup>Department of Chemical-Pharmaceutical and Biomolecular Technologies, Faculty of Pharmacy, Catholic University "Our Lady of Good Counsel", Tirana, Albania

<sup>3</sup>Pharmacist, Parapharmacy ÈQUI, Bolzano, Italy

<sup>4</sup>Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Faculty of Pharmacy, Catholic University "Our Lady of Good Counsel", Tirana, Albania

Received November 25, 2022; Revised February 8, 2023; Accepted March 12, 2023

## Cite This Paper in the Following Citation Styles

(a): [1] Eftiola Pojani, Silvi Bozo, Ervisa Sado, Irsida Mehmeti, Elena Capparelli "Trends in Dermocosmetics Use among the Albanian Population during the Period 2019-2020," *Universal Journal of Public Health*, Vol. 11, No. 2, pp. 185 - 204, 2023. DOI: 10.13189/ujph.2023.110201.

(b): Eftiola Pojani, Silvi Bozo, Ervisa Sado, Irsida Mehmeti, Elena Capparelli (2023). *Trends in Dermocosmetics Use among the Albanian Population during the Period 2019-2020*. *Universal Journal of Public Health*, 11(2), 185 - 204. DOI: 10.13189/ujph.2023.110201.

Copyright©2023 by authors, all rights reserved. Authors agree that this article remains permanently open access under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0 International License

**Abstract** The evolving role of dermocosmetics in skincare has changed people's approach toward skin physiology and pathology. The proper choice of dermocosmetics is crucial in the control and prevention of many skin diseases. In this study, we aim to report the consumption levels of different dermocosmetics from community and hospital pharmacies that operate in the Albanian territory. Methods: We analyzed the frequency of purchase orders for dermocosmetics, from Pharma One Shpk, a pharmaceutical distributor based in Tirana. Data were obtained from different pharmacies in the period from 1 January 2019 up to 31 December 2020. Results: It was observed a high interest in dermocosmetics throughout the Albanian territory. Precisely, in the southern part of Albania, during 2019, Dexeryl Cream 250 g (Pierre Fabre), was one of the most purchased products (12.6%). During the same year, in Tirana, the most required preparation was Belosalic ointment (Belupo) (40.7%). In 2020, the purchase frequency order for Cicabio Cream (Bioderma), increased in Durrës compared to a year before. Sensibio DS+ Cream 40 ml (Bioderma) and Sensibio AR Cream 40ml (Bioderma) were widely requested by the pharmacies in both 2019 and 2020. Meanwhile, Silsen Acne Skin Cream 75 ml (Unipharma) was one of the least ordered products in 2019 and 2020. Conclusions: Analyzing the frequency of purchased orders, it is evident that dermocosmetic products are widely required in Albania.

Currently, efforts are made to identify possible pathologies connected to visual appearance, which could be a big step in the direction of early diagnosis.

**Keywords** Dermocosmetics, Trend, Sensitivity, Albanian Territory, Skin Disease, Pharmacies

## 1. Introduction

Cosmetics usage is mentioned in the history of almost every society on the earth. Discoveries have shown that ancient populations were familiar with added decorative elements along their bodies [1,2]. These facts indicate that the aspiration to look good was present since that time. Evidence of the first use of makeup, tattoos, and other skin decoration, goes back to 5000 years ago [3].

Referring to the ancient world, Egyptian populations were accustomed to the use of oils and body creams applied on ordinary days or during religious ceremonies. In Greece, Rome, China and Japan (3000 BCE- 1500 BCE) face powders, eyebrows and nail coloring were also found to be applied among the community [4]. Recently, the cosmetic industry has experienced great revolution due to a greater knowledge related to skin characterization and the development of new technologies [5-8]. Globally, the

beauty industry is getting stronger, and customers nowadays are demanding high-quality products, not only to maintain the feeling of well-being but also to boost their confidence [9].

A cosmetic product includes any substance meant to be applied in contact with different external or internal parts of the human body for improving personal hygiene by cleaning, perfuming, protecting, or by keeping them in good shape [10].

Nowadays, the development of cosmetics is regulated similarly to those of medicinal products [5]. The European Regulation No 1223/2009 is the main regulatory foundation for cosmetic products circulating in the European market. In addition, this regulation which entered into force in July 2013, restricts the placing on the EU market of cosmetic products tested on animals [11].

Functional dermocosmetics is a branch of dermatology that uses these products alone or in combination with standard pharmacological treatments in the control of different skin diseases such as psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, seborrheic dermatitis, acne, rosacea, or other inflammatory and non-inflammatory skin lesions [5,12,13]. The skin is a wonderful and complex organ in the human body that acts as a direct barrier against a variety of pathogens that can cause numerous skin disorders [14]. Thus, understanding the importance of keeping the epidermal structure healthy and intact is crucial. Functional dermocosmetics fit into this general context as they are born to support dermatological therapy to appropriately respond to the increasing demand for formulation quality and treatment results [15]. Manufacturing dermocosmetic products is a complex process in which are involved many aspects that differentiate them from standard cosmetics [5,16].

Dermocosmetics are experiencing notable growth demand worldwide and given the fact that there are no published data regarding the use of dermocosmetics among the Albanian population, the effort to understand this trend is crucial.

## 2. Materials and Methods

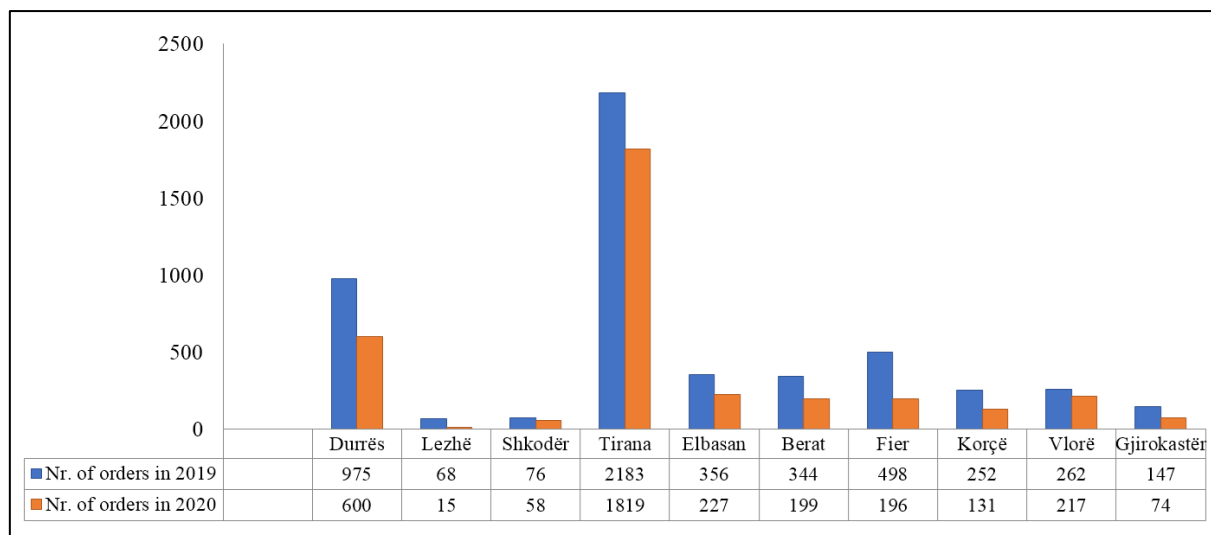
In this research article, we aim to report the

consumption levels of different dermocosmetics throughout the analysis of the total number of orders made by 1011 community and hospital pharmacies that operate in Albania, including the period from 1 January 2019 up to 31 December 2020. The data for this study were obtained from Pharma One Shpk, a leader in the pharmaceutical distribution market in Albania, which distributes medications, OTC products, cosmetics and medical materials.

From this database, we were able to identify the geographic location of 1006 pharmacies. The distribution of the pharmacies by administrative divisions is as follows: 158 pharmacies in the northern part of Albania (counties of Durrës, Kukës, Lezhë, Shkodër, Dibër), 562 in the central part of Albania (counties of Elbasan, Tirana) and 286 in the southern part of Albania (counties of Berat, Fier, Vlorë, Korçë, Gjirokastrë). Precisely, in the county of Durrës there are 102 pharmacies afferent to Pharma One Shpk, 7 in Kukës County, 21 in Lezhë, 19 in Shkodër and 9 in Dibër. While, for the pharmacies located in the central part of Albania, the county of Elbasan counts 72 pharmacies and Tirana 490. Regarding the southern part of Albania, in the county of Berat, there are 50 pharmacies, 99 in Fier County, 61 in Vlorë, 56 in Korçë and 20 in Gjirokastrë.

## 3. Results

The total number of dermocosmetic products ordered by the Albanian community and hospital pharmacies during 2019 was 6648, while in 2020 was 4438. Figure 1 shows the amount of dermocosmetic products ordered by community and hospital pharmacies that operate in the most populated counties in Albania for both years. According to the data presented in Figure 1, it is noticed that there is a mild decline in the total number of orders during 2020 in almost every city. Based on the usage according to the geographical area distribution, Durrës and Tirana resulted to be the counties with the mostly ordered quantity of these products.



**Figure 1.** The amount of dermocosmetic products purchased by community and hospital pharmacies that operate in the most populated counties in Albania, 2019-2020

**Table 1.** Number of dermocosmetic products ordered by the Albanian community and hospital pharmacies during 2019

Dermocosmetic product	N	%
Belosalic 0,5 mg + 30 mg/g ointment (Belupo)	2704	40.7
Benzolait AB5 Emulgel 30ml (Roydermal)	218	3.3
Bethasal ointment (0.5 + 30.0) mg/g (Bosnalijek)	242	3.6
Caladerm Cream 40ml (Evdermia Dermaceuticals)	127	1.9
Cicabio Soothing Repairing Cream (Bioderma)	649	9.8
Dexeryl Cream 250g (Pierre Fabre)	837	12.6
Palmetin Cream 30ml (Evdermia Dermaceuticals)	27	0.4
Sebium Global 30ml (Bioderma)	143	2.2
Sebium Lotion 200ml (Bioderma)	92	1.4
Sensibio AR Cream 40ml (Bioderma)	461	6.9
Sensibio DS+ Soothing Purifying Cream 40ml (Bioderma)	422	6.3
Silsen Acne Skin Cream 75 ml (Unipharma)	6	0.1
Soderm PLUS Ointment 30g (DermaPharm AG)	720	10.8
Total number	6648	100%

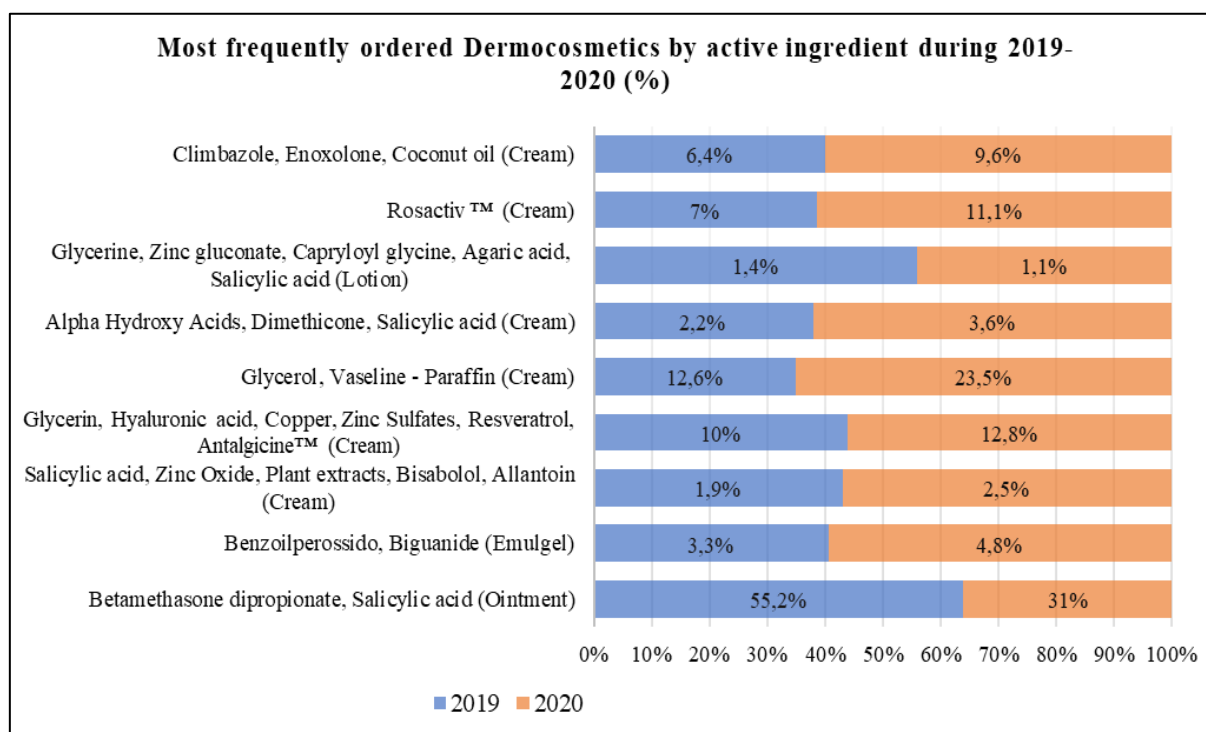
Belosilac ointment, a preparation containing betamethasone and salicylic acid, resulted to be one of the most demanded products during 2019 (40.7%) (Table 1). Moreover, results have shown that during 2019, there was considerable demand for Dexeryl cream (12.6%), Soderm PLUS Ointment 30g (DermaPharm AG) (10.8%), Cicabio

cream (9.8%), Sensibio AR Cream (6.9%) and Sensibio DS+ (6.3%) (Table 1).

Meanwhile, Silsen cream (0.1%), a product used for the treatment of acne, was one of the least ordered products during the estimated analysis period.

**Table 2.** Number of dermocosmetic products ordered by the Albanian community and hospital pharmacies during 2020

Dermocosmetic product	N	%
Belosalic 0,5 mg + 30 mg/g ointment (Belupo)	754	16.99
Benzolait AB5 Emulgel 30ml (Roydermal)	209	4.71
Bethasal ointment (0.5 + 30.0) mg/g (Bosnalijek)	330	7.44
Caladerm Cream 40ml (Evdermia Dermaceuticals)	110	2.48
Cicabio Soothing Repairing Cream (Bioderma)	559	12.60
Dexeryl Cream 250g (Pierre Fabre)	1043	23.50
Palmetin Cream 30ml (Evdermia Dermaceuticals)	18	0.41
Sebium Global 30ml (Bioderma)	161	3.63
Sebium Lotion 200ml (Bioderma)	50	1.13
Sensibio AR Cream 40ml (Bioderma)	494	11.13
Sensibio DS+ Soothing Purifying Cream 40ml (Bioderma)	423	9.53
Silsen Acne Skin Cream 75 ml (Unipharma)	2	0.05
Soderm PLUS Ointment 30g (DermaPharm AG)	284	6.38
Thiosoap Ph 5.5 Cleanser with Sulfur and Sulfur Amino Acids (BioNike)	1	0.02
Total number	4438	100%

**Figure 2.** The most frequently ordered dermocosmetics by active ingredients during 2019-2020

Dexeryl cream frequency demand during 2020 has shown a significant increase compared to a year before (23.50%). On the other hand, the demand trend for SensiBio DS+ cream and SensiBio A-R remains almost the same in 2019 (6.3%; 6.9% respectively) compared to 2020 (9.53%; 11.13% respectively). In the meantime, ointment appears to be less requested during 2020 (16.99%). Silsen

cream (0.05%) remains one of the least ordered dermocosmetics even during 2020 (Table 2).

The most frequently ordered dermocosmetics by active ingredient during 2019-2020 are presented in Figure 2.

A cumulative table that summarizes the number of dermocosmetic products ordered by community and hospital pharmacies in different counties of Albania during

2019 and 2020 is presented in Annex Table 1 A.

In 2019, in the northern part of Albania, Belosilac resulted to be the most requested product by the community and hospital pharmacies, with an amount of 710 items ordered, followed by Soderm PLUS Ointment (n=234), Cicabio cream (n=164) and Dexeryl Cream (n=139) (Annex Table 2 A, Annex table 2.1A). During 2019, almost the same high trend of order was shown in the central part of Albania too, in which Belosilac resulted to be one of the most purchased products, (n=988), followed by Cicabio cream (n=386) and Sensibio AR cream (n=350) (Annex Table 3 A, Annex Table 3.1A). In the southern part of Albania, Belosilac was the most ordered product too (n=1064), followed by Dexeryl cream (n=420) (Annex Table 4 A, Annex Table 4.1A).

In 2020, in the northern part of Albania, Belosilac and Dexeryl were the most demanded products too (n=236, n=169 respectively) (Annex Table 5 A). In the central part of Albania, Sensibio AR (n=408) was found to be the most ordered product, followed by Cicabio cream (n=343) (Annex Table 6.1 A). Meanwhile, the southern part of Albania seems to present a different trend, where the most ordered product in absolute during 2020 was found to be Dexeryl cream (n=504) (Annex Table 7 A).

#### 4. Discussion

According to Euromonitor data, this branch of the cosmetic industry has undergone notable growth calculated as 5% on a global level in 2020 [17]. It is estimated that the COVID-19 global pandemic has affected every industry, but also has increased the demand for these products as people's behavior habits in personal hygiene and self-care has improved [18,19].

In the meantime, according to the analysis of the evolving market trend by Allied Market Research, the influence of the Covid- 19 pandemic on the growth of the global dermocosmetic market industry, was negative in terms of a minor increase in demand, due to the lockdowns, customer's focus changing as well as limitations regarding import-export procedures and supply chain [20].

By analyzing the frequency of purchased orders in our study, apparently, there is a mild decline in the total number of orders during 2020 in almost every city. In the effort to explain this trend, it is possible that these results are a reflection of the consequences of the pandemic Covid-19 lockdown considering the fact that not every pharmacy in the territory had implemented, during that period, the delivery services yet. Thus, in order to get a rational explanation of the above results, it is necessary to confront these data with those obtained by the end of 2022.

As claimed by the Euromonitor's Passport Database, in 2020, Western Europe and Asia Pacific are referred to be two of the most valuable dermocosmetics regions, being

top markets, especially for products that support healthy skin and hair [21].

From our data survey, it was observed that the demand for dermocosmetics in different cities of Albania, is closely related to several factors such as seasonality. For example, exfoliating products are mostly used during spring or autumn when the skin is not irritated by the climate and has a better possibility to regenerate. Thus, moisturizer formulations, recommended for eczema, psoriasis and atopic dermatitis, were the most ordered especially during winter and low humidity seasons.

Atopic dermatitis is a common multifactorial skin disease and recently there have been efforts to develop new therapeutic agents, that could improve life quality and contribute to better managing the global diffusion of this type of skin disorder [22,23]. Market data forecast reports that the global atopic dermatitis market size value for 2022 is 11.77 billion dollars and an increased growth rate in this market is expected [16].

Previous studies have indicated that the risk to develop atopic dermatitis in big city centers is low while other studies conducted have shown that there is no correlation between the occurrence of this skin disorder and place of residence [24-27]. On the other hand, the role of physicians in prescribing dermocosmetics and the marketing process for a specific product, are considered fundamental factors driving the dermocosmetics market trend. They seem to be a very useful tool in the treatment of numerous skin disorders and this trend is also reflected in Albanian territory.

In our study, acne treatment products resulted to be widely used among the Albanian population. Apparently, this means that much attention is being paid recently to the treatment of this kind of skin condition in our country. Preliminary data from 2021 already indicate that the frequency of purchase orders for formulations containing salicylic acid and corticosteroids is growing.

A cross-section observational study was conducted in the Eastern region of Saudi Arabia, aiming to identify skin disorders frequency among primary school children. The results have demonstrated that sociodemographic and hygiene factors are considered high-risk factors correlated with the development of these diseases [28]. Data analysis from another study conducted in former East and West Germany, assessed that low education level, low socioeconomic status, and poor personal hygiene are to be considered key risk factors for developing skin disorders, especially atopic dermatitis [29].

According to another study, it was found that previous family history of dermatological conditions, personal hygiene, family education and parents' occupation status, were significantly associated with the prevalence of skin disorders among primary school children in Ethiopia [30].

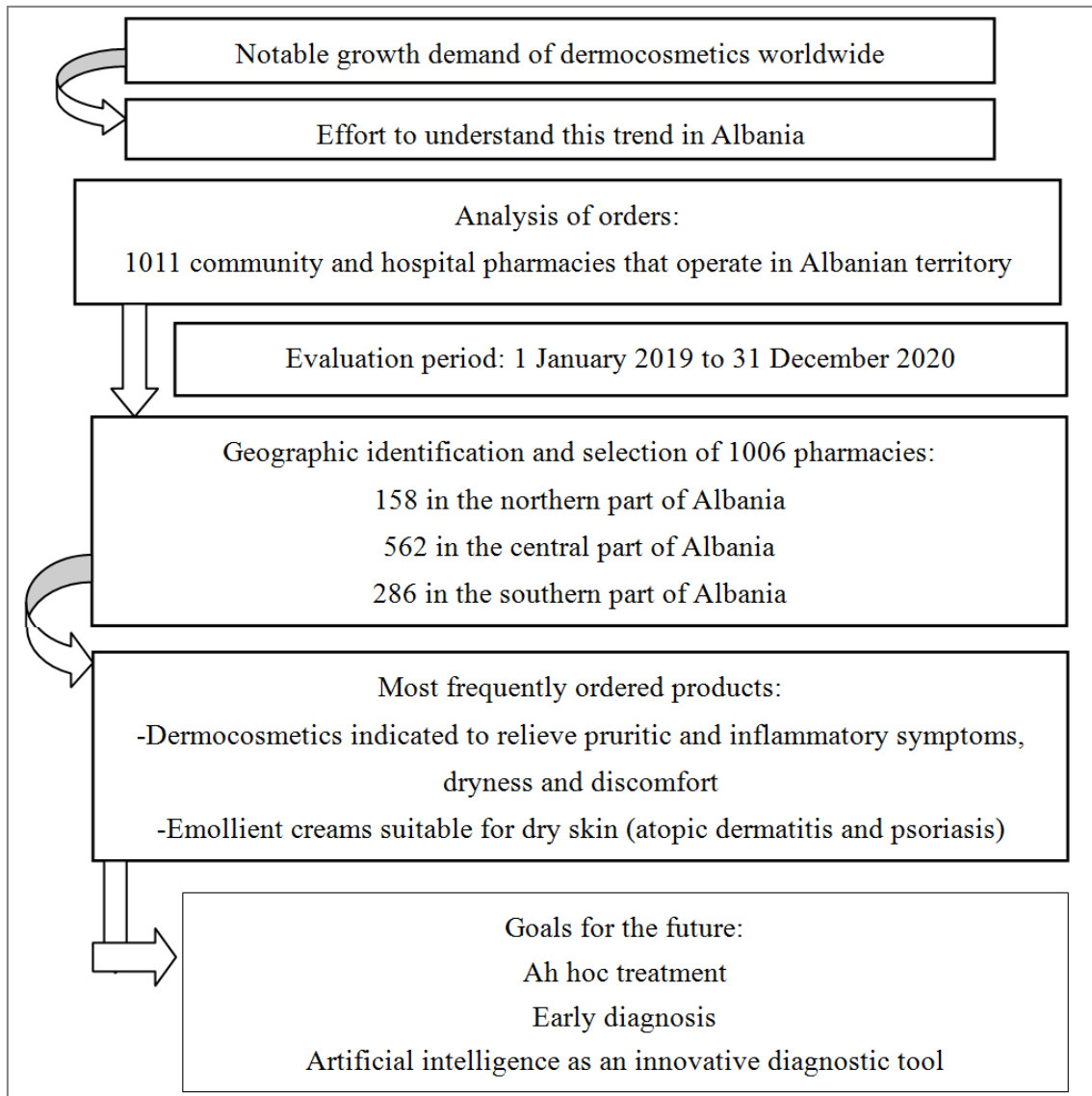
The literature review shows that before considering the properties of a dermocosmetic product treatment, it is necessary to undergo a deeper analysis of skin biology, as well as other factors related to skin characterization

[31-33].

The fast growth related to the sales of dermocosmetics is associated with some factors such as the increasing number of people suffering from skin problems and the growing trends in beauty care [16,20].

Finally, it was observed that dermocosmetics are well-known products by most of the pharmacists that operate in the Albanian territory as well as by

dermatologists who have begun recently to prescribe these products. These professionals are already aware of the particular attention paid to the formulation in terms of strict safety and quality control measures. In order to properly support future research in this field, Figure 3 below displays a summary of our research and the main outcomes.



**Figure 3.** Summary of our research and the main outcomes

## 5. Conclusions

The use of dermocosmetics for a variety of skin disorders is linked to factors such as socio-economic status, lifestyle, environmental conditions and co-presence of other diseases which influence the demand for these products in terms of economic value and prevalence of the subjected skin disorder.

In the future, we hope for an even wider range of innovative active ingredients for new brands of dermocosmetics that can be used for the treatment of psoriasis, dermatitis and rosacea. Furthermore, one of the aspects that can lead to greater compliance is the design of formulations that have better aspects in terms of being less sticky and greasy and with pleasant smells.

Today's scientific development has facilitated the profound knowledge of the disease enough to address the research effort no longer on symptomatic treatments, but towards the identification of treatments that can disseminate the pathologic cause. An important goal for the future is ad hoc treatment.

At present time, new innovative diagnostic tools, like artificial intelligence, are applying the latest technological advancements. Everyone, via a smartphone, could take a picture of the skin-affected area, obtaining, though in real-time, the solution approaches. Obviously, this attempt doesn't have absolute reliability and cannot be compared with the ad hoc instrumentation diagnosis, but the idea of

being able to identify in probabilistic terms the possible pathologies connected to the visual appearance of the skin represents a great step forward in the direction of early diagnosis. Furthermore, keeping the evolution of the disease monitored facilitates the dermatologist's work in reconstructing the history of the disorder and in the recognition of the acute symptom's manifestations.

### 5.1. Strength and Limitations

In the first place, this study is the first of its kind that provides original findings on the use of dermocosmetics among the Albanian population that can be used to compare trends with other countries in the region or the world and identify critical areas for improvement in this developing market. We strongly believe that the continuous improvement in line with the accumulation of updated information regarding the Albanian people's approach toward skincare with the effort to understand the dermocosmetics trend will attract the attention and interest of health professionals and readers as well. On the other hand, the lack of previous research studies conducted on this topic in Albania, generates literature gaps so, further investigation should be carried out to understand the ongoing occurrence because a better knowledge of the dermocosmetics biological properties infects their safe use.

## Appendix

### Annex Tables

**Table 1A.** Cumulative table of the amount of dermocosmetic products ordered by the community and hospital pharmacies in different counties of Albania, 2019-2020

Counties of Albania	N (2019)	N (2020)
<i>Counties in the Northern part of Albania</i>		
<b>Durrës</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>600</b>
Shijak	23	14
Fushë-Krujë	152	66
Krujë	17	8
<b>Kukës</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
Tropojë	52	22
Has	13	4
<b>Lezhë</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>15</b>
Laç	19	13
Rrëshen	9	2
<b>Shkodër</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Dibër</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Burrë	58	28
Peshkopi	21	7

Table 1A Continued

<i>Counties in the central part of Albania</i>		
<b>Tirana</b>	<b>2183</b>	<b>1819</b>
Kam ëz	4	5
Kavaj ë	188	140
<b>Elbasan</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>227</b>
C ërik	8	1
Librazhd	27	16
Gramsh	15	25
Peqin	10	18
P ërenjas	4	4
<i>Counties in the southern part of Albania</i>		
<b>Berat</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>199</b>
Ku çov ë	44	17
Skrapar	43	31
<b>Fier</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>196</b>
Lushnj ë	357	285
Ballsh	56	20
Divjak ë	22	9
Patos	19	9
<b>Kor çë</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>131</b>
Bilisht	2	0
Ersek ë	1	2
Pogradec	163	53
<b>Vlor ë</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>217</b>
Sarand ë	118	49
Himar ë	4	6
Delvin ë	1	0
<b>Gjirokast ër</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>74</b>
P ërmet	15	15
K ëçyr ë	8	22
Tepelen ë	11	6
<b>Total number</b>	<b>6648</b>	<b>4438</b>



**Table 2A.** Types of dermocosmetic products ordered by the community and hospital pharmacies located in the Northern part of Albania in 2019 [1]

<i>Type of dermocosmetic product (2019)</i>							
<b>Counties in the Northern part of Albania</b>	Belosalic 0,5 mg + 30 mg/g ointment (Belupo)	Benzolait AB5 Emulgel 30ml (Roydermal)	Bethasal ointment (0.5 + 30.0) mg/g (Bosnalijek)	Caladerm Cream 40ml (Evdermia Dermaceuticals)	Cicabio Soothing Repairing Cream (Bioderma)	Dexeryl Cream 250g (Pierre Fabre)	Palmetin Cream 30ml (Evdermia Dermaceuticals)
Durrës	471	31	20	9	115	50	5
Shijak	11	1	6	-	2	2	-
Fushë-Krujë	68	3	28		7	28	
Krujë	5	2	-	-	-	-	10
Kukës	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Tropojë	48	-	2	-	-	2	-
Has	10		3	-	-	-	-
Lezhë	37	-	-	-	12	-	-
Laç	13	-	-	-	2	4	-
Rrëshen	3	-	1	-	1	4	-
Shkodër	15	-	-	-	21	-	-
Burrë	10	-	-	-	1	47	
Peshkopi	19	-	-	-	-	2	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>15</b>

**Table 2.1A.** Types of dermocosmetic products ordered by the community and hospital pharmacies located in the Northern part of Albania in 2019 [2]

<i>Type of dermocosmetic product (2019)</i>						
<b>Counties in the Northern part of Albania</b>	Sebium Global 30ml (Bioderma)	Sebium Lotion 200ml (Bioderma)	Sensibio AR Cream 40ml (Bioderma)	Sensibio DS+ Soothing Purifying Cream 40ml (Bioderma)	Silsen Acne Skin Cream 75 ml (Unipharma)	Soderm PLUS Ointment 30g (DermaPharm AG)
Durrës	13	1	11	31	4	214
Shijak						1
Fushë-Krujë				1		17
Krujë						
Kukës						
Tropojë						
Has						
Lezhë	3		6	10		
Laç						
Rrëshen						
Shkodër	9	1	10	18		2
Burrel						
Peshkopi						
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>234</b>

**Table 3A.** Types of dermocosmetic products ordered by the community and hospital pharmacies located in the central part of Albania in 2019 [1]

<b>Type of dermocosmetic product (2019)</b>							
<b>Counties in the central part of Albania</b>	Belosalic 0,5 mg + 30 mg/g ointment (Belupo)	Benzolait AB5 Emulgel 30ml (Roydermal)	Bethasal ointment (0.5 + 30.0) mg/g (Bosnalijek)	Caladerm Cream 40ml (Evdermia Dermaceuticals)	Cicabio Soothing Repairing Cream (Bioderma)	Dexeryl Cream 250g (Pierre Fabre)	Palmetin Cream 30ml (Evdermia Dermaceuticals)
Tirana	681	90	19	25	324	202	3
Kam ëz	1					3	
Kavaj ë	99	13	23	3	12	12	
Elbasan	177	16	32	17	50	28	
C ërik	1		5			1	
Librazhd	16		2			8	
Gramsh	5		3	5		2	
Peqin	4		3	2			
P ërenjas	4						
<b>Total</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>3</b>

**Table 3.1A.** Types of dermocosmetic products ordered by the community and hospital pharmacies located in the central part of Albania in 2019 [2]

<b>Type of dermocosmetic products (2019)</b>						
<b>Counties in the central part of Albania</b>	Sebium Global 30ml (Bioderma)	Sebium Lotion 200ml (Bioderma)	Sensibio AR Cream 40ml (Bioderma)	Sensibio DS+ Soothing Purifying Cream 40ml (Bioderma)	Silsen Acne Skin Cream 75 ml (Unipharma)	Soderm PLUS Ointment 30g (DermaPharm AG)
Tirana	91	82	337	266	1	62
Kam ëz						
Kavaj ë	2	2	11	10	1	
Elbasan	4		3	5		24
C ërik						1
Librazhd	1					
Gramsh						
Peqin			1			
P ërenjas						
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>87</b>

**Table 4A.** Types of dermocosmetic products ordered by the community and hospital pharmacies located in the southern part of Albania in 2019 [1]

Type of dermocosmetic product (2019)							
Counties in the Southern part of Albania	Belosalic 0,5 mg + 30 mg/g ointment (Belupo)	Benzolait AB5 Emulgel 30ml (Roydermal)	Bethasal ointment (0.5 + 30.0) mg/g (Bosnalijek)	Caladerm Cream 40ml (Evdermia Dermaceuticals)	Cicabio Soothing Repairing Cream (Bioderma)	Dexeryl Cream 250g (Pierre Fabre)	Palmetin Cream 30ml (Evdermia Dermaceuticals)
Berat	115	4	22	4	12	65	
Kuçovë	19	1	2		1	3	
Skrapar	35					3	
Fier	192	10	12	19	15	67	9
Lushnjë	105	1	20	15	1	169	7
Ballsh	28			1		8	
Divjakë	20					1	
Patos	1					3	
Korçë	169	8	13	3	7	24	1
Bilisht	2						
Ersekë	1						
Pogradec	113	2	1		4	19	
Vlorë	105	4	11	20		21	
Sarandë	82		2	16	4	7	1
Himarë	1			1		2	
Delvinë					1		
Gjirokastër	56	7	5	7	13	24	1
Përmet	9			3		1	
Këlcyrë			1		4	3	
Tepelenë	11						
<b>Total</b>	<b>1064</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>19</b>

**Table 4.1A.** Types of dermocosmetic products ordered by the community and hospital pharmacies located in the southern part of Albania in 2019 [2]

<b>Type of dermocosmetic product (2019)</b>						
<b>Counties in the Southern part of Albania</b>	Sebium Global 30ml (Bioderma)	Sebium Lotion 200ml (Bioderma)	Sensibio AR Cream 40ml (Bioderma)	Sensibio DS+ Soothing Purifying Cream 40ml (Bioderma)	Silsen Acne Skin Cream 75 ml (Unipharma)	Soderm PLUS Ointment 30g (DermaPharm AG)
Berat		1	11	14		96
Ku çov ë						18
Skrapar						5
Fier	8	2	20	7		137
Lushnj ë	1		18	1		19
Ballsh						19
Divjak ë			1			
Patos			4			11
Kor çë	10		1	12		4
Bilisht						
Ersek ë						
Pogradec	20		2	2		
Vlor ë	62		5	7		27
Sarand ë				2		4
Himar ë						
Delvin ë						
Gjirokast ër		1	5	5		23
P ërmet	2					
K ëdçyr ë						
Tepelen ë						
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>363</b>

**Table 5A.** Types of dermocosmetic products ordered by the community and hospital pharmacies located in the Northern part of Albania in 2020 [1]

<b>Type of dermocosmetic product (2020)</b>							
<b>Counties in the Northern part of Albania</b>	<b>Belosalic 0,5 mg + 30 mg/g ointment (Belupo)</b>	<b>Benzolait AB5 Emulgel 30ml (Roydermal)</b>	<b>Bethasal ointment (0,5 + 30.0) mg/g (Bosnalijek)</b>	<b>Caladerm Cream 40ml (Evdermia Dermaceuticals)</b>	<b>Cicabio Soothing Repairing Cream (Bioderma)</b>	<b>Dexeryl Cream 250g (Pierre Fabre)</b>	<b>Palmetin Cream 30ml (Evdermia Dermaceuticals)</b>
Durrës	186	27	58	11	102	89	
Shijak	2		1		2	6	
Fushë-Krujë	11	9	5		13	24	
Krujë						7	
Kukës							
Tropojë	12		7		1	2	
Has	3					1	
Lezhë	5				3		
Laç		2	5		3	2	
Rrëshen			2				
Shkodër					9	21	
Burrel	10	1				17	
Peshkopi	7						
<b>Total</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 5.1A.** Types of dermocosmetic products ordered by the community and hospital pharmacies located in the Northern part of Albania in 2020 [2]

<b>Type of dermocosmetic product (2020)</b>							
<b>Counties in the Northern part of Albania</b>	Sebium Global 30ml (Bioderma)	Sebium Lotion 200ml (Bioderma)	Sensibio AR Cream 40ml (Bioderma)	Sensibio DS+ Soothing Purifying Cream 40ml (Bioderma)	Silsen Acne Skin Cream 75 ml (Unipharma)	Soderm PLUS Ointment 30g (DermaPharm AG)	Thiosoap Ph 5.5 Cleanser with Sulfur and Sulfur Amino Acids (BioNike)
Durrës	9		21	19		78	
Shijak						3	
FushëKrujë						4	
Krujë				1			
Kukës				1			
Tropojë							
Has							
Lezhë			4	3			
Laç			1				
Rrëshen							
Shkodër	12	3	3	8		2	
Burrel							
Peshkopi							
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 6A.** Types of dermocosmetic products ordered by the community and hospital pharmacies located in the central part of Albania in 2020 [1]

Type of dermocosmetic product (2020)							
Counties in the central part of Albania	Belosalic 0,5 mg + 30 mg/g ointment (Belupo)	Benzolait AB5 Emulgel 30ml (Roydermal)	Bethasal ointment (0.5 + 30.0) mg/g (Bosnalijek)	Caladerm Cream 40ml (Evdermia Dermaceuticals)	Cicabio Soothing Repairing Cream (Bioderma)	Dexeryl Cream 250g (Pierre Fabre)	Palmetin Cream 30ml (Evdermia Dermaceuticals)
Tirana	237	103	37	13	259	281	
Kam ëz	1				2	2	
Kavaj ë	30	15	28	2	10	46	
Elbasan	44	8	34	10	68	31	2
C ërik					1		
Librazhd	2				2	12	
Gramsh	3		14			7	
Peqin	3		14		1		
P ërenjas				1		3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>2</b>

**Table 6.1A.** Types of dermocosmetic products ordered by the community and hospital pharmacies located in the central part of Albania in 2020 [2]

Type of dermocosmetic product (2020)							
Counties in the central part of Albania	Sebium Global 30ml (Bioderma)	Sebium Lotion 200ml (Bioderma)	Sensibio AR Cream 40ml (Bioderma)	Sensibio DS+ Soothing Purifying Cream 40ml (Bioderma)	Silsen Acne Skin Cream 75 ml (Unipharma)	Soderm PLUS Ointment 30g (DermaPharmAG)	Thiosoap Ph 5.5 Cleanser with Sulfur and Sulfur Amino Acids (BioNike)
Tirana	119	43	400	307	1	18	1
Kam ëz							
Kavaj ë	4		3	1		1	
Elbasan	2		5	11		12	
C ërik							
Librazhd							
Gramsh						1	
Peqin							
P ërenjas							
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1</b>



**Table 7A.** Types of dermocosmetic products ordered by the community and hospital pharmacies located in the southern part of Albania in 2020 [1]

Type of dermocosmetic product (2020)							
Counties in the Southern part of Albania	Belosalic 0,5 mg + 30 mg/g ointment (Belupo)	Benzolait AB5 Emulgel 30ml (Roydermal)	Bethasal ointment (0,5 + 30.0) mg/g (Bosnalijek)	Caladerm Cream 40ml (Evdermia Dermaceuticals)	Cicabio Soothing Repairing Cream (Bioderma)	Dexeryl Cream 250g (Pierre Fabre)	Palmetin Cream 30ml (Evdermia Dermaceuticals)
Berat	18	3	20	5		88	
Kuçovë	3	6	2			3	
Skrapar	13		5			8	
Fier	23	8	15	19	3	75	7
Lushnjë	9	3	5	21	1	203	3
Ballsh	10			5			
Divjakë						8	1
Patos			2	1		3	
Korçë	38	3	37	2	1	29	1
Bilisht							
Ersekë			2				
Pogradec	23		8		4	12	
Vlorë	17	16	4	4	61	34	2
Sarandë	7	6		14		11	4
Himarë	2		1		1	2	
Delvinë							
Gjirokastër	19	3	7	1	4	22	
Përmet	2					6	
Këlcyrë			10		12		
Tepelenë	2						
<b>Total</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>18</b>

**Table 7.1A.** Types of dermocosmetic products ordered by the community and hospital pharmacies located in the southern part of Albania in 2020 [2]

<b>Type of dermocosmetic product (2020)</b>							
<b>Counties in the Southern part of Albania</b>	Sebium Global 30ml (Bioderma)	Sebium Lotion 200ml (Bioderma)	Sensibio AR Cream 40ml (Bioderma)	Sensibio DS+ Soothing Purifying Cream 40ml (Bioderma)	Silsen Acne Skin Cream 75 ml (Unipharma)	Soderm PLUS Ointment 30g (DermaPharma G)	Thiosoap Ph 5.5 Cleanser with Sulfur and Sulfur Amino Acids (BioNike)
Berat			8		1	56	
Kuqovë						3	
Skrapar						5	
Fier	8	9	11	7	1	10	
Lushnjë	3		14	7		16	
Ballsh	2		1			2	
Divjakë							
Patos				1		2	
Korçë	2	2	3	13			
Bilisht							
Ersekë							
Pogradec	2	1				3	
Vlorë	4	2	10	38		25	
Sarandë			5			2	
Himarë							
Delvinë							
Gjirokastër	1		1			16	
Përmet						7	
Këlcyrë							
Tepelenë						4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>0</b>

## Acknowledgments

We would like to express our gratitude to PHARMA ONE Sh.p.k. for the effective collaboration.

## Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest, financial or otherwise.

## Funding

None.

---

## REFERENCES

- [1] Morriss-Kay, Gillian M. "The evolution of human artistic creativity." *Journal of Anatomy*, Vol. 216, No. 2, pp. 158-76, 2010. DOI: 10.1111/j.1469-7580.2009.01160.x
- [2] "History of cosmetics", [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_cosmetics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_cosmetics) (accessed Oct. 15, 2022).
- [3] Blanco-Dávila, F. "Beauty and the body: the origins of cosmetics" *Plastic and reconstructive surgery*, Vol. 105, No 3, pp. 1196-204, 2000. DOI: 10.1097/00006534-200003000-00058.
- [4] "A History of Cosmetics from Ancient Times" <https://www.cosmeticsinfo.org/get-the-facts/a-history-of-cosmetics-from-ancient-times/> (accessed Oct. 15, 2022).
- [5] Dreno B, Araviiskaia E, Berardesca E, Bieber T, Hawk J, Sanchez-Viera M, Wolkenstein P. "The science of dermocosmetics and its role in dermatology", *Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology*, Vol. 28, No. 11, pp. 1409-17, 2014. DOI: 10.1111/jdv.12497.
- [6] Newburger, Amy E. "Cosmeceuticals: myths and misconceptions", *Clinics in dermatology*, Vol. 27, No. 5, pp.446-52, 2009. DOI:10.1016/j.clindermatol.2009.05.008
- [7] Brandt FS, Cazzaniga A, Hann M. "Cosmeceuticals: current trends and market analysis", *Seminars in cutaneous medicine and surgery*, Vol. 30, No. 3, pp. 141-3, 2011. DOI: 10.1016/j.sder.2011.05.006
- [8] Zappelli C, Barbulova A, Apone F, Colucci G. "Effective Active Ingredients Obtained through Biotechnology", *Cosmetics*, Vol. 3, No. 4, pp. 39, 2016. <https://doi.org/10.3390/cosmetics3040039>
- [9] Roberts R. "Beauty Industry Trends & Ecommerce Statistics: Statistics and Strategies for Your Ecommerce Growth. Common Thread Collective", <https://commonthreadco.com/blogs/coachs-corner/beauty-industry-cosmetics-marketing-ecommerce> (accessed Oct 2022).
- [10] Pole Cosmetique. "Article 8 of European Cosmetics Regulation (EC) N° 1223/2009 and of the Council [sic] of 30 November 2009", [https://pole-cosmetique.fr/en/faq\\_en/defintion-cosmetic-product/](https://pole-cosmetique.fr/en/faq_en/defintion-cosmetic-product/) (accessed Oct 2022).
- [11] "Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on cosmetic products. 2009. Official Journal of the European Union. Public Health", [https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2016-11/cosmetic\\_1223\\_2009\\_regulation\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2016-11/cosmetic_1223_2009_regulation_en_0.pdf) (accessed Oct 2022).
- [12] Gonçalves, M.M.B. de M.M., Pina, M.E.S.R.T. de. "Dermocosmetic care for rosacea", *Brazilian Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*. Vol. 53, No. 4, 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1590/s2175-97902017000400182>
- [13] Braye F, Hautier A, Bouez C, Damour O. "Les substituts cutanés reconstruits en laboratoire: application au traitement des brûlés [Skin substitutes reconstructed in the laboratory: application in burn treatment]", *Pathologie Biologie*, Vol. 53, No. 10, pp. 613-617. 2005. DOI: 10.1016/j.patbio.2004.12.004.
- [14] Richmond, Jillian M, and John E Harris. "Immunology and skin in health and disease", *Cold Spring Harbor perspectives in medicine*, Vol. 4, No. 12, 2014. DOI: 10.1101/cshperspect.a015339
- [15] Millikan, L E. "Cosmetology, cosmetics, cosmeceuticals: definitions and regulations", *Clinics in dermatology*, Vol. 19, No. 4, pp.371-4, 2001. DOI: 10.1016/s0738-081x(01)00195-x
- [16] "Steady increase in dermocosmetic market value. Why do customers love these products?", <https://politech.pl/en/blog/steady-increase-in-dermocosmetic-market-value-why-customers-love-these-products/> (accessed Oct 2022).
- [17] Silva C. "Exploring the Evolving Landscape of Dermocosmetics. 2021". Euromonitor International, <https://www.euromonitor.com/article/exploring-the-evolving-landscape-of-dermocosmetics> (accessed Oct 2022).
- [18] Nunes LV. "Growing trend for dermocosmetics", *Cosma International*, <https://www.cosma.com/marketing/article/growing-trend-for-dermocosmetics-36538.html> (accessed Oct 2022).
- [19] Das D, Sarkar A, Debroy A. "Impact of COVID-19 on changing consumer behaviour: Lessons from an emerging economy", *International journal of consumer studies*, Vol. 46, No. 3, pp. 692-715, 2022. DOI: 10.1111/ijcs.12786
- [20] Naga S, Neha M, Vitika V. "Dermocosmetics Market by Product (Skin Care, Hair Care), by Treatment (Skin, Hair), by Distribution Channel (Pharmacy and Retail Stores, Online), by End-user (Clinics, Medical Spas, and Salons, Hospitals, At-Home): Global Opportunity Analysis and Industry Forecast, 2021-2030", <https://www.alliedmarketresearch.com/dermocosmetics-market-A11130> (accessed Oct 2022).
- [21] Tang K. "Exploring the evolving landscape in APAC dermocosmetics market", *Euromonitor International* 2022, <https://www.euromonitor.com/article/exploring-the-evolving-landscape-in-apac-dermocosmetics-market> (accessed Oct 2022).
- [22] Appiah MM, Haft MA, Kleinman E, Laborada J, Lee S, Loop L, Geng B, Eichenfield LF. "Atopic dermatitis Review of comorbidities and therapeutics". *Annals of allergy, asthma & immunology: official publication of the American College of Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology*, Vol. 129, No. 2, pp. 142-149, 2022. DOI: 10.1016/j.anai.2022.05.015

- [23] Hajar T, Gontijo JRV, Hanifin JM. "New and developing therapies for atopic dermatitis", *Anais brasileiros de dermatologia*, Vol. 93, No. 1, pp. 104-107, 2018. DOI: 10.1590/abd1806-4841.20187682
- [24] Kupryś-Lipińska I, Elgalal A, Kuna P. "Epidemiologia atopowego zapalenia skóry w populacji ogólnej mieszkańców województwa łódzkiego [Epidemiology of atopic dermatitis in general population of the Lodz province's citizens]", *Pneumonologia i Alergologia Polska*, Vol. 77, No. 2, pp. 145-51, 2009. PMID: 19462348.
- [25] Stelmach W, Korzeńewska A, Krakowiak J, Sołowiec A, Smejda K, Stelmach I. "Retrospektywna analiza wyników Programu Prewencji Chorób Alergicznych u dzieci w regionie łódzkim [Retrospective analysis of the results of Allergic Diseases Prevention Program in children in the Łódź area]", *Pneumonologia i Alergologia Polska*, Vol. 72, No. 5-6, pp. 192-7, 2004. PMID: 15757257.
- [26] Olszanecka-Glinianowicz M. "The subjective assessment of the effect and satisfaction with dermocosmetics use by patients with skin disturbances", *Postepy dermatologii i alergologii*, Vol. 32, No.3, pp. 195-203, 2015. DOI: 10.5114/pdia.2015.51751
- [27] Taylor MR, Holland CV, O'Lorcain P. "Eczema and hay fever in schoolchildren", *Irish medical journal*, Vol. 89, No.6, pp. 229-30, 1996. PMID: 8996957.
- [28] Rahamathulla MP. "Prevalence of skin disorders and associated socio-economic factors among primary school children in the Eastern region of Saudi Arabia", *The Journal of the Pakistan Medical Association*, Vol. 69, No. 8, pp. 1175-1180, 2019. PMID: 31431774.
- [29] Ring J, Krämer U, Schäfer T, Abeck D, Vieluf D, Behrendt H. "Environmental risk factors for respiratory and skin atopy: results from epidemiological studies in former East and West Germany", *International archives of allergy and immunology*, Vol. 118, No. 2-4, pp. 403-7. 1999. DOI: 10.1159/000024148
- [30] Mengist Dessie A, Fenta Feleke S, Getaye Workie S, Getinet Abebe T, Mossu Chanie Y, Kassa Yalew A. "Prevalence of Skin Disease and Its Associated Factors Among Primary Schoolchildren: A Cross-Sectional Study from a Northern Ethiopian Town", *Clinical, cosmetic and investigational dermatology*, Vol. 15, pp. 791-801, 2022. DOI: 10.2147/CCID.S361051
- [31] Salomé Calixto L, Picard C, Savary G, Campos PMBGM. "Skin characterization and immediate effects of different dermocosmetic treatments in French and Brazilian skin", *Journal of cosmetic dermatology*, Vol. 19, No.2, pp. 466-472. 2020. DOI: 10.1111/jocd.13003
- [32] Villena. K. "Dermocosmetics: The Junction of Skin Care and Health and Wellness", *Euromonitor International 2018*, <https://www.euromonitor.com/article/dermocosmetics-the-junction-of-skin-care-and-health-and-wellness> (accessed Oct 2022).
- [33] Brohem CA, Cardeal LB, Tiago M, Soengas MS, Barros SB, Maria-Engler SS. "Artificial skin in perspective: concepts and applications", *Pigment cell & melanoma research*, Vol. 24, No.1, pp. 35-50, 2011. DOI:10.1111/j.1755-148X.2010.00786.x