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In vivo confocal fluorescence imaging of skin surface cellular morphology: a pilot study of its potential as a clinical tool in skin research.

Leeson DT, Lynn Meyers C, Subramanyan K.; Int J Cosmet Sci. 2006 Feb;28(1):9-20.

ABSTRACT

The cellular morphology of the stratum corneum was studied in vivo using a novel imaging technique that uses confocal fluorescence microscopy in combination with topical application of a fluorescent contrast agent.

Images obtained with this method show a strong variation in skin surface cellular morphology among healthy subjects.

The results of several clinical studies suggest that cellular morphology is affected by the efficiency of the process of desquamation.

As such, cellular morphology shows strong potential to serve as an indicator of skin health that yields mechanistic insight into the origins of skin ailments, such as xerosis, and the effectiveness of their treatments.