

August 2005 - KYOTO (Japan)

- **Methylparaben induces ageing of UV exposed cells, study says.**

Researchers from the Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine have found that, when exposed to ultraviolet rays, skin cells treated with methylparaben have a higher fatality rate and are much more concentrated in lipid peroxide.

Methylparaben (methyl 4-hydroxybenzoate) is a widely and commonly used preservative in cosmetic products, including sunscreens and facial skin creams.

"I think women should avoid strong and direct sunshine when wearing cosmetics containing methylparaben," professor Toshikazu Yoshikawa told to The Asahi Shimbun.

According to newspaper, researchers have applied methylparaben to skin cells in a concentration similar to that usually found in cosmetic products. Skin cells were then exposed to about 30 millijoules of UV rays per square centimetre, "about the average daily amount on a summer day".

"About 19 percent of the methylparaben-added skin cells died, while the fatality rate for cells with no methylparaben was only about 6 percent," reported The Asahi Shimbun. Furthermore, the amount of lipid peroxide in cells treated with methylparaben was almost three times the total of that found in untreated cells. Lipid peroxidation is usually recognised as biomarker of tissue damage.

The researchers said the findings would confirm that methylparaben, when exposed to ultraviolet rays, advances the ageing process in skin cells.

Yoshikawa and the other researchers will present the results of their study at the conference of the International Federation of Societies of Cosmetic Chemists (IFSCC) in September.

Vincent Gallon
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The Asahi Shimbun: www.asahi.com
The International Federation of Societies of Cosmetic Chemists (IFSCC): www.ifsc.org
IFSCC Conference 2005: www.cosmetics2005.org