



STOP skin damage

Are you using the right skincare? Find out via high-tech personal programmes for rejuvenated, radiant skin. Cheryl Robertson tests the best... »

The beauty market is flooded with choice. There are quick fix solutions to help us appearance again immediately. There are longer term options for those with more deterioration or time. But with a proper skin analysis, most of what we do could be in vain.

Skin analysis helps people to take control of their skincare regime – and discover what products they ought to be using based on clinical (necessarily examined) evidence.

Does your face have a clear picture of the state of your skin and the solutions required, you will then be receiving the right treatments for your condition – as well as saving thousands of dollars by preventing misdiagnosis.

Skin analysis can also help to identify underlying medical conditions that you may not be aware of.

There are UV image based skin analysis systems that can help analyse the skin with the help of software, digital skin measuring tools that provide accurate data and face mapping procedures where a therapist closely examines the face using a headset device.

THE INTERNATIONAL AESTHETIC MEDICAL CENTRE

The International Aesthetic Medical Centre (IAMC) introduced the Viva Complexion Analysis system in November 2009. CarMed Scientific of the USA created this system to show



customers the current state of their skin and how it will respond to a full range of treatments. It evaluates wrinkles, spots, pore size, skin tone variations, pigmentation, bacterial content and UV spots that indicate sun damage. You put your face in a booth and a UV camera takes photographs of the underlying conditions of your skin, allowing the

analyst to see what the naked eye cannot. The system then generates a comprehensive report, which indicates individual complexion characteristics and compares it to those of others of the same age, gender and skin type. The idea is to track your progress in your skin some of the offered treatments.

Karyn Anne Robinson, cosmetic therapist at the Al Wasl based centre said: "This system – the latest in 'non-invasive' technology – accurately evaluates the current state of a person's skin, assessing any damage or underlying medical conditions, and can also create a report showing how a person will look in five years time if corrective measures are not followed."

"The analysis takes into account any factors that may be damaging to your skin's health such as skin type, history of sun exposure and the products used in the daily skincare routine. When customers see for themselves the results of the skin analysis, they are usually motivated to do something positive about it," she adds.

Within six to eight weeks of a treatment the skin is analysed again, and generally the improvements are noticeable.

KAYA SKIN CLINIC

The Kaya Skin Clinic recently introduced a new skin health check system also based on UV image technology.

Dr Taylor Rashid, dermatologist at the Kaya Skin Clinic, said: "No skin analysis is complete without a thorough



UV skin imaging technology has the accurate tools for any skincare specialist to assist in offering treatment recommendations. "This would definitely assist us in diagnosing the skin health of our clients, offer them customised services and track the skin's progress based on measurements to monitor their face vitality."

The new technology, known as the Kaya Skin Health Check, is available at the Town Centre and Moadif Clinics in Dubai and in its Al Khay clinic.

BOOTS PHARMACY

Boots has a skin analysis service in various sizes at different times depending on the supplies. Boots's skin analysis device will be available at Boots Al Safra in June and at Ibn Battuta store in September, where clients can come in to talk to a representative.

Richard Morgan, president of Boots, says that the skin analysis helps cosmetic consultants prescribe the

SO WHICH IS BEST?

It's hard to say. I found the UV image generating skin analysis system and digital skin measuring tools to be more regarding the depth of the action and how extensively quick it was. The fact that you can return to check on how a treatment is progressing, over a short period, are not unlike the related UV image technology. Usually you pay for these or it is incorporated with a treatment. The face mapping system, on the other hand, was recommended by a real person, not a salesperson. The system supported by the headset is the best situation. There are others and could add as many more questions as I thought of as we were using it in 20 minutes. Face mapping has a device.

While neither cannot fully replace clinical knowledge and the skill and personal touch of a dedicated professional, skin measuring practitioners, they do work in tandem with the client to get the very best and most accurate results possible.

right skincare products for individuals as it was a highly personalised service.

"Research shows that 70 percent of women use skincare products incorrectly, 85 percent use products that do not suit their skin condition and 44 percent use products that do not match their skin type."

Analysis of the skin defines the exact problem the individual is facing, for example the levels of pigmentation and evenness in skin tone, redness and radiance are calculated on a scale, with each reading requiring a separate course of treatment. Fore conditions showing areas of acne, excess oil or inflammation show up clearly from a skin analysis print out.

NIVEA HAUS

Definitely worth visiting is Nivea Haus at Dubai Mall, for the clean, crisp, white yet warm luxurious ambience alone.

This spa is one of only three similar spas in the world – the other two are in Hamburg and Berlin, according to retail spa manager Angela Turonkova.

It offers skin and hair analysis facilities, with separate female beauty and male grooming lounges, as well as private treatment cabins and a retail selection with advice and daily product demonstrations.

The Multi-Dermascope MDS800 skin analysis machine at Nivea Haus consists of probes for measuring skin hydration and oil content, wrinkles, melanin content and elasticity, all on a semicircular diode chain.

An image is produced of the results and product advice from a therapist follows. The service comes free with every facial treatment or is available on its own for Dh50; it takes about 20 minutes for the procedure to be completed.

DERMALOGICA

Dermalogica – located in the Dubai Mall – offers a range of skin health treatments including free face mapping and a 14 zone-by-zone skin analysis. The therapists there are extremely knowledgeable and in 20 minutes offer a treatment regime based on the results of the examination, which is carried out by the therapist closely examining my face using a headset device, alarmingly resembling a miner's exploratory headgear. The personal service, and interest in each client cannot be faulted. ■

