

e freckles



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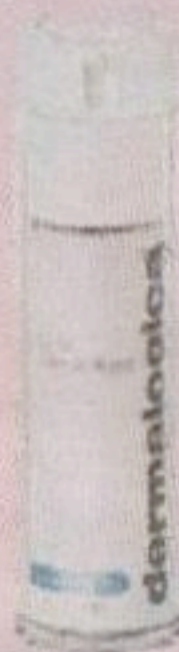
The best new treatments

We asked six testers to trial the latest hyperpigmentation treatments ...

Dermalogica's C 12 concentrate, £54.50, pure-beauty.co.uk

THIS had a pleasing texture and settled into the skin quickly. My skin looks better than it has for weeks, though my pigmentation hasn't improved dramatically. My skin looks healthy, fresh, moisturised and in peak condition, but for some light pigment on my cheeks remains.

JANE CULLEN



Dove Spa Even The Odds, £36, dovespa.co.uk

THIS oil initially gave me a pink rash, which disappeared after a few minutes, leaving my skin feeling tight. My skin felt smoother and my pigmentation spots have definitely faded, so I will carry on using the product. I am impressed so far.

MAGALIE BILL



Estee Lauder's Idealist Even Skintone Illuminator, £62, boots.com

THE lotion was easy to apply and once dry formed a good base for moisturiser or make-up. When washing it off in the evening, my skin felt smoother but not tight or dry. There has been a small improvement in the appearance of brown marks on my face, so I will continue to use it.

VICTORIA PURNELL



Medik 8 White Balance, £29, skinbrands.co.uk

I HAVE a pigmentation stain on my cheek that really shows in the summer when I am brown. The serum worked well when I was not in the sun and the mark became less obvious more quickly than if it faded on its own. However, as soon as I went back in the sun it came back again. It was quite moisturising but had no lasting effect.

ELEANOR BUCKMASTER



Thalgo clear expert smooth brightening fluid, £55.15, thalgo.com

I HAVE a large freckly sun spot on my cheekbone and while that hadn't visibly faded after a month of use, it didn't get any worse. As it's summer and I have been out in the sun a lot with the children, this usually happens.

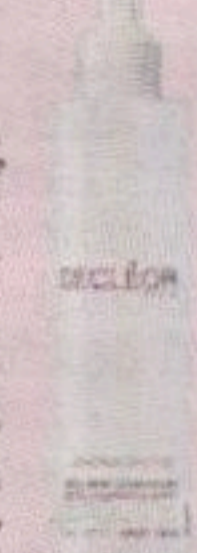
KIT HALL



Decleor Aroma White C+ Hydra-brightening Lotion, £27.78, 020 7313 8780

I APPLIED this lotion every day on patches of pigmentation, which appeared after my holiday. It was hard to tell what effect the lotion was having and what was caused by my tan fading naturally. However, within one month, the patches had lightened.

OLIVIA WALMSLEY



skin. For those suffering from post-inflammatory pigmentation, which refuses to fade naturally, a couple of sessions with the Ruby laser (from £250 per session, drnicklowe.com), which emits a red light to obliterate targeted pigment cells painlessly, have been shown to be effective.

Lasers can be effective for melasma sufferers, but should be approached with caution, as the heat can trigger the formation of more pigment for this hormone-related problem.

Dermatologists are seeing effective results from the in-clinic mask-based procedure — Epionce Melano Corrective System (from £160, woodfordmedical.com). The blotch-diminishing treatment is loaded with active de-pigmenters such as bark, mulberry and achillea

Skin sins

Genetics affect 20 per cent of ageing: 80 per cent is due to variables, such as sunburn, dieting and smoking

extract. You're also handed accompanying home-use products to boost the treatment's efficacy.

Be warned, though — all these treatments can leave the skin vulnerable to UV damage, which can exacerbate pigmentation, so daily application of a high SPF cream is essential.

The good news for those seeking a gentler, more wallet-friendly approach to the problem is that a host of skincare products designed to fade pigment irregularities have just hit the market — see the panel above for our reviews. When choosing these products, look for ingredients such as azelaic acid, niacinamide and arbutin, which suppress melanin levels.

Hopefully, in no time at all, your skin will go from patchy to perfect.