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### **Utility of the Three-Dimensional Cultured Human Skin Model as a Tool to Evaluate Skin Permeation of Drugs**

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Three-dimensional cultured human skin model was evaluated for prediction of skin permeability of drugs. The permeation data of different drugs were compared with those through excised human and rat skin. Although the cumulative amount of each drug that permeated through the cultured human skin was about 10-fold higher than those through the excised human and rat skin, a good correlation was found in those permeabilities. Time profiles for skin permeation of each drug were very analogical for both the skin membranes. The rate-limiting layer for cultured human skin permeation was also evaluated. It is clear from these results that the total epidermis is the primary barrier in the cultured human skin, whereas the stratum corneum alone is the barrier in the excised hairless rat skin.