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JULY 2007

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AGE BEAUTIFULLY

Top Docs Share Their Secrets

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1 application

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POWERFUL SUN

THE BATTLE AGAINST AGE-OLD PROBLEMS like sagging skin and skimpy lashes is being waged—and won—in the labs of cosmetic scientists. From a high-tech DIY device that reprograms aging skin to an ingenious treatment to help you get a younger-looking wink, here are the latest giant leaps for womankind—and how to tell if they're right for you.

1. An Additive That Protects Skin

■ **CHELATORS** are topical chemicals being infused into skin care formulas in an effort to remove iron, an essential nutrient that gives us energy but is a menace to skin health.

How is it that iron—which is found naturally in skin in what's known as a safe “bound” form—takes such a big toll on skin? Blame the sun. When iron is exposed to UV light, it becomes unbound. This in turn causes the release of massive amounts of free iron in cells. “This free iron triggers the production of harmful free radicals that can damage collagen and cause DNA mutations—ultimately leading to skin aging and even cancer,” explains Charareh Pourzand, PhD, a lecturer in pharmaceuticals at the University of Bath in Britain.

Chelators bind to and isolate the iron so it can't wreak havoc on the skin. Pourzand, who recently published a study on the subject in the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, is testing

a new product that employs these ingredients. Meanwhile, Dennis Gross, MD, an associate clinical

◀ SWIPE ON to “iron out” aging, sun-damaged skin

professor of dermatology at New York University Medical Center, has already added a chelating complex to several products in his MD Skincare line. “While this chelator sequesters the free iron, it still allows the absorption of bound iron, which is beneficial to the healthy functioning of skin,” he explains. Though his offerings contain the first topical chelators, expect to see more products formulated with them. “Adding chelators to skin care products means better skin protection,” says Janet Blaschke, a cosmetic chemist in Manhattan Beach, CA.

■ **WHERE TO GET IT** mdskincare.com, including Hydra-Pure Oil-Free Moisture (\$75) and Powerful Sun Protection SPF 30 Sunscreen Packettes (\$42)

2. A Serum That Speeds Skin Repair

■ **REMERGENT'S DNA REPAIR FORMULA** is the first skin care product to tackle past DNA damage from UV exposure, a major cause of aging. The serum, which is applied to the face twice daily, uses marine and botanically derived enzymes to enhance skin's natural DNA-repair mechanism.

Minimizing DNA damage is key to keeping skin smooth and firm. That's