

SKIN *deep*

Theresa Arnold discovered her preference for medical aesthetics during the early part of her medical career. Now, Dr Theresa is back in the Gold Coast after a decade of practising medical pigmentation, a subdivision of dermatology and plastic surgery at her clinics in the UK and US.



During the 90s, Micropigmentation (a form of medical tattooing) experienced massive growth as a means of permanently camouflaging scars, burns, birth marks and other skin imperfections. But it was discovered that existing inks fade and migrate over time, leaving patients no better off.

Research companies in Germany and the US devised a new formula and technique, a translucent powder mixed with saline, colour-matched to an individual's skin tone and injected.

A pioneer in this field, Dr Theresa is in high demand for her skill in this subdivision of Dermatology and Plastic Surgery, addressing skin pigment abnormalities arising from birth marks, scarring, burns, vitiligo, stretch marks and other conditions.

Dr Theresa commutes between the Gold Coast and San Francisco where her clients are referred by hospitals and doctors. Her work goes way beyond intervention for aesthetic reasons.

"I work with people who have tried everything from make-up to lasers and surgery. In the case of prominent birth marks or severe scarring, this treatment can be the difference between a life spent in hiding and the confidence to return to a normal life."

Her expertise is highly sought after and there is no "typical patient". "I work with celebrities, models, men and women with post-operative scarring and children with birth marks or other skin imperfections."

In the case of people who experience visible scarring after face lifts or other surgery, Dr Theresa says patients are often "doubly scarred". "They are likely to feel guilty for wishing to hold back the hands of time. Sometimes their families make them feel bad for their 'vanity' which has led them to seek surgery."

The procedure involves matching a special pigment to the client's skin colouring, mixing it with saline and applying it first topically to the skin to ensure a perfect match. "If it disappears on the skin, I know it's the correct colour," she explains.

After three to four treatments, entire tracts of scarring or birth marks are concealed, as if significantly reduced.

"This treatment can be the difference between a life spent in hiding and the confidence to return to a normal life."



"Once healed, the area pigmented looks entirely natural. It is very difficult to distinguish the re-pigmented area from your 'normal' skin," states Dr Theresa.

"I had one client with a severe birth mark on her face and neck which affected everything she did. After four procedures, she is now able to go without makeup and look completely natural. It is life-saving in as much as it returns lives to normal."

Theresa works with top plastic surgeons in the US, complementing their work, and will soon be available for Australians hoping for their own life-changing dermal pigmentation through her clinic in Broadbeach,

and with David Chin, plastic and reconstructive surgeon specialising in skin cancer and keloid scars, with a practice at Sanctuary Cove.

**FOR INFORMATION
VISIT www.dermink.com
FOR APPOINTMENTS ON
THE GOLD COAST
TEL: 1300 145 000**