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SKINCARE

# “I tried K-beauty’s liquid microneedling trend, and my skin’s glow is off the charts”

BY FIONA EMBLETON 1 DAY AGO



ALL PRODUCTS ON THIS PAGE HAVE BEEN SELECTED BY THE EDITORIAL TEAM, HOWEVER STYLIST MAY MAKE COMMISSION ON SOME PRODUCTS PURCHASED THROUGH AFFILIATE LINKS IN THIS ARTICLE



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Liquid microneedling is said to make your skincare ingredients more effective. I tried it and these were the unexpected results.

Liquid exfoliators, such as no-rinse glycolic and salicylic acid toners, have replaced scratchy scrubs, and now ‘liquid microneedling’ has entered the skincare chat as a watery alternative to microneedling rollers that look like medieval torture devices.

I stumbled onto the trend entirely by accident. A timely selection of Medcube products landed on my desk, including the One Day Exosome Shot 2000. I’d just squeezed the last few drops out of my regular exfoliating treatment, so I slathered this pore-refining serum on that night, curious about what the ‘spicules’ in the formula might do.

Spicules are a relatively new ingredient in the UK but have been used in skincare for over a decade in South Korea. “Spicules are microscopic, needle-shaped structures derived from freshwater-grown sponges,” says facialist Carly Argent, who uses Cellstory’s professional spicule treatment in her clinic. “Carefully purified and incorporated into a topical formula, they are gently pressed into the skin, creating thousands of microscopic pathways.”

TikTok content creators are early adopters, waxing lyrical about the glass skin results. But they’re also becoming so buzzy that the spicules market is set to be valued at \$32 million (£23.8m) by 2036, according to global market researchers Future Market Insights.