

PATIENT INFORMATION ON PRODUCT SAMPLES

Dear Patient!

Thousands of product samples from a wide variety of manufacturers are distributed to you as patients every day in doctors' offices in a wide variety of specialties, clinics and pharmacies.

While samples offer the opportunity to try out alternatives for skin care, they are extremely **problematic for the environment** for the following reasons:

- Product samples are delivered in large repackaged cartons. This results in large amounts of various packaging waste in practices and clinics, such as plastic films and cardboard boxes.
- Furthermore, the sample tubes usually consist of a material mix of at least two different types of plastic (tube and lid) with a maximum content of 2 to 7 ml, which corresponds to the size of a cherry or a walnut.
- In some cases, the samples contain microplastics of different chemical compositions, some even endocrine disruptors, which are harmful to health and pollute the environment severely because they are not biodegradable.

It can be assumed that, as a rule, not all samples are distributed or used and the different components are not cleanly separated for recycling, which is why they end up in incineration waste. In Germany alone, product samples generate several tons of waste every day. Some of this ends up in the environment as a result of traveling or is disposed of in countries that do not have suitable waste disposal or recycling systems. In addition, the production of these samples pollutes the climate. The energy-intensive production of plastic from petroleum produces the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide, which contributes to global warming.

We therefore ask you for your **understanding** and your **assistance** by refraining from using "sample bags".

Help us to set an important example against plastic waste and climate change!

You can find further information on the website www.akdermaplastik.de.