

# WHEN SKIN THERAPY GETS PRICKLY

Sand-fine stimulation and science-backed renewal  
– could microscopic spicules be the future of  
skin rejuvenation?



DOWNTIME HAS always been the trade-off in advanced skin correction. The arrival of spicule-based systems such as Dr.esthé, SpongillaTech VitaSpicules and Glassifier™ by IDENEL in Australia this year is sparking discussion about whether these microscopic mineral structures can change that balance.

*Professional Beauty* spoke with clinic owners and educators to find out how spicules are being put to work in treatment rooms and how clients are responding.

### The Client View

Spicules are microscopic, needle-like structures from freshwater sponges. Massaged into the skin, they create micro-channels that stimulate repair, accelerate turnover and enhance ingredient delivery until they are naturally exfoliated in the days that follow.

For many clinics, the first measure of success is how clients feel during and after the treatment.

At The Skin Bar, which operates across New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, founder Samantha Appel says the appeal lies in their balance of results, experience and innovation.

"Clients often describe it as a prickly or tingling sensation, almost like very fine sand being worked into the skin," she says. "It's not painful, but you can feel something is happening beneath the surface. Most clients love that they walk away feeling like something active is happening, and then over the next few days they notice smoother texture, refined pores and that healthy glow."

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Samantha finds spicules particularly effective for congestion, scarring and early ageing. She sees them as a middle ground between an advanced facial and microneedling, offering noticeable change with shorter downtime and greater accessibility for sensitive or barrier-impaired clients.

### Shaping Protocols

Industry educators agree that spicules are carving out a versatile role, whether performed as a

standalone treatment or layered with other modalities. Danielle Mason, Head Educator at Vital Plus, points to their adaptability and the scope they give therapists to design signature experiences.

"VitaSpicules slide into the skin and remain for up to 72 hours, stimulating collagen, elastin and growth factors," she says.

"Product penetration can increase by up to 3000%, and cell turnover accelerates from 28 days to just seven."

INSKIN Cosmetics' National Education Manager, Michelle Sciara, places Dr.esthé spicules within the broader context of advanced skin modalities. Developed in collaboration with more than 100 dermatologists, the protocols are designed to deliver millions of microscopic mineral spicules into the epidermis.

"This creates consistent, low-grade stimulation that accelerates turnover and normalises cell function without prior prep," Michelle explains, noting that this is particularly valuable for clinics with clients who want visible results without the longer lead time some modalities require.

Both educators say spicules can stand alone or amplify results when paired with modalities such as LED, HIFU, peels or enzyme therapy. They highlight the short treatment time and adjustable intensity as advantages for clinics and clients alike.

They also emphasise the importance of clear communication when introducing spicules to newcomers. She recommends a benefits-first approach, describing them as "microscopic mineral structures that gently stimulate the skin from the inside out, encouraging new, revitalised cells and delivering actives where they're needed most".

Danielle often frames them in comparison to microneedling: "Most clients already understand needling, so I explain we're using tiny, natural, sponge-derived needles massaged into the skin with fingertips to encourage renewal."

### Shifting Demand

At Sydney's Admire Beauté, founder Dianne Saliba sees spicule treatments as a way to offer advanced results with less recovery time while strengthening client engagement.

"It allows us to offer clients outcomes comparable to microneedling with less discomfort and significantly shorter downtime," she says.





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Education has been central to uptake. Once Dianne’s team explained how spicules stimulate renewal without needles or machinery, client curiosity turned into bookings and broadened consultations while strengthening retention.

From a bottom-line perspective, spicules sit comfortably as an advanced skin treatment on the menu yet require fewer overheads than device-based options, giving clinics greater flexibility in how they design programs.

Saliba believes this reflects a broader change in

the industry, with clients increasingly looking for protocols that deliver visible results without harsh techniques or lengthy recovery times.

“We’ve seen a clear shift in expectations,” she notes. “Innovations like spicules show that balance can be achieved through smart, science-backed treatments that work with the skin, not against it.”

### The Next Wave

Among the spicule innovations making their way into Australian clinics is the Glassifier™ by IDENEL system, which draws on advanced Korean skin science and dermatological expertise. Powered by Peptaxel® freshwater sponge spicules and patented Altum® Peptide technology, each treatment blends a peptide-rich powder with an activating liquid mixed fresh in clinic, enabling actives to penetrate with precision.

Clinicians describe it as calm yet active — clients feel subtle stimulation without irritation, fostering trust and steady rebookings. Clinic partners are already witnessing impressive results. “The results obtained on skin with rosacea and pigmentation are transformative in a short time span,” says Claudia Fabiani, acclaimed cosmetologist at Future Clinic Modern Beauty. “They keep amazing me. Inflammation fades, the skin calms, and flare-ups become completely controlled.”

### Early Days, Big Interest

What emerges from these conversations is a picture of a treatment still finding its footing in Australia but one that is already sparking interest across clinics and clients alike. Spicules are unlikely to replace existing modalities, but their ability to broaden options makes them one of the industry’s most closely watched newcomers. ■