There are many words currently used in reference to someone who has a condition that is visible to other people.

facts & figures

Such conditions, for example include acne, alopecia, rosacea, psoriasis and vitiligo as well as those present from birth (such as Treacher Collins Syndrome or Ichthyosis). Scars may also attract language that the patient does not identify with. For several decades BASC have taught and given presentations at national conferences on the psychological impact such labels can have - irrespective of whether skin camouflage is being sought. BASC considered a survey was long overdue! The results, which we promised all participants would be published regardless of whether it proved or disproved our experiences.

the word we understood to give the most offence, is "disfigured"

We used Survey Monkey, who did not know the participants, and neither do we! The survey attracted a lot of interest and became oversubscribed.....but from those who registered first we know that, their age range is,

49.49% were 51-64   24.24% were 36-50   14.14% were over 65

9.09% were 26-35   and   3.03% were 16-25

of these, their occupation/interest was,

9 1.20%
8 2.04%
7 3.06%
6 4.08%
5 4.08%
4 14.29%
3 15.31%
2 26.53%
1 29.56%
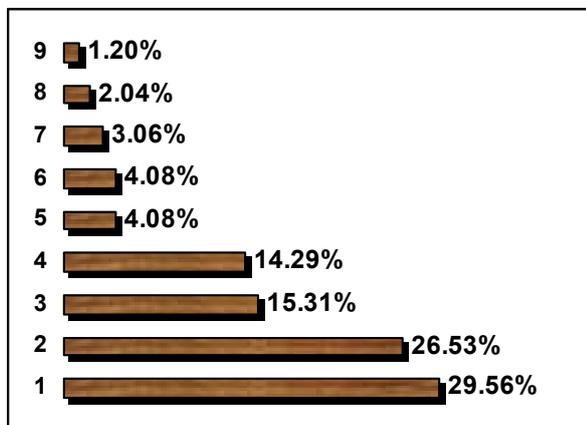
1 medical professionals (Consultant, GP, Nurse, Occupational Therapist, Maxillofacial Tech. Pharmacist)
2 person with a skin condition
3 holistic-beauty therapist
4 person with scars
5 help to run a patient support group
6 work for cosmetics/toiletries/drug company
7 a makeup artist
8 family, friend or colleague of someone who has a skin condition
9 member of a patient support group

there were no responses from a family, friend or a colleague of someone who has scarring

35% regarded the loss of a lip or the mouth would be considered "disfiguring" however, the use of the word "disfigured" was used
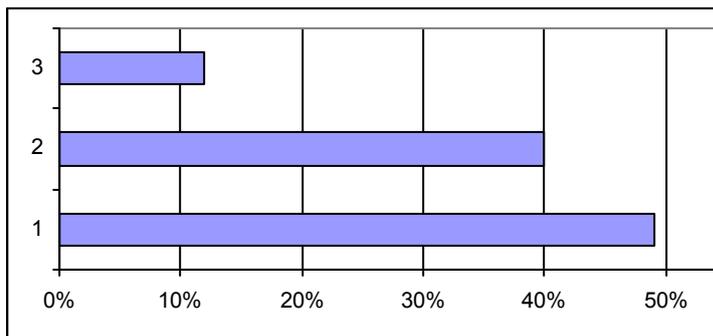
3 12% would, when in the company of someone, describe them as being disfigured

2 40% would describe themselves as being disfigured

1 49% would describe someone as disfigured

so there we have it,
please take note that,

88% would NEVER describe, *when in the company of anyone* with a skin condition or scarring, as disfigured (which included professional environments) and

60% of people with a skin condition or scarring would NEVER describe *themselves* as disfigured.

given those findings, what label did people consider to be the correct one to use?

an OVERWHELMING 52 people preferred VISIBLE DIFFERENCE

27 people were happy with Altered Image

and just 9 were okay with being called disfigured