

New combined peel in melasma

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The purpose of our study was to evaluate the efficacy and tolerability of a combined peel, using Salicylic Acid associated with Trichloroacetic Acid (TCA) at low concentration, in the treatment of melasma.



Materials and Methods

Our combined peel consists in using in succession on the same session two different chemical agents, Salicylic Acid 25% in alcoholic solution and TCA 10% gel. The aim of this combination is to favour penetration of TCA at low concentration, using Salicylic Acid as exfoliant agent.

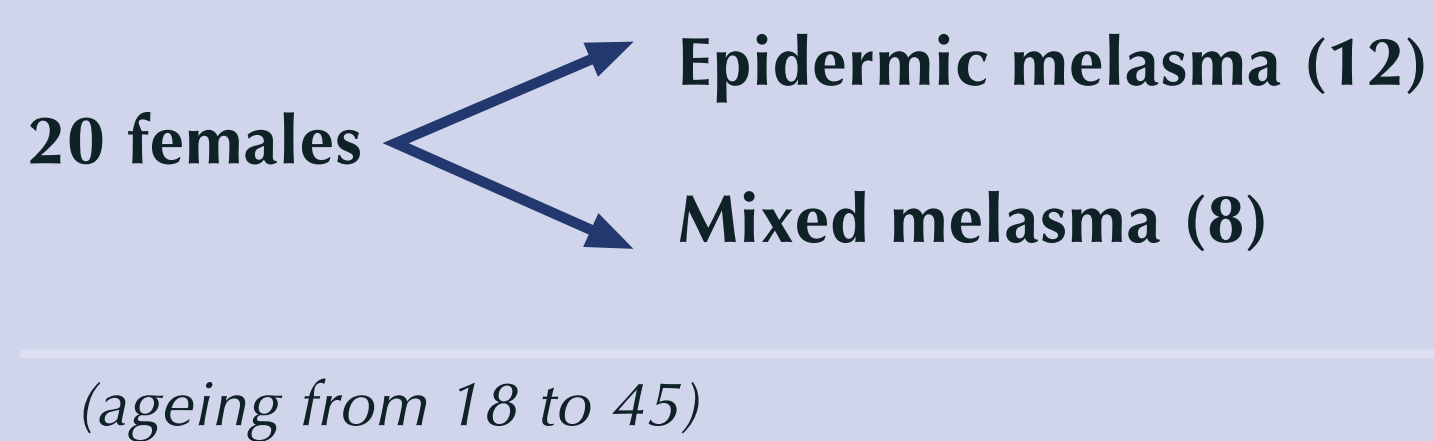


Photo-types according to Fitzpatrick: II : 8
III : 7
IV : 2
V : 3

Modality of treatment

We treated all the 20 patients with combined peel using Salicylic Acid 25% in alcoholic solution and TCA 10% gel, in 3-4 settings at 4-5 weeks interval.

The used technique includes different phases:

PRE-PEEL PHASE:

3 weeks before the peel the patients were treated with bleaching agent (Kligman's trio: idroquinone 4%, hydrocortisone 0.50% and retinoic acid 0.1% in 100 mg of base cream)

PEELING PHASE:

- **Cleansing:** with physiologic solution (Photo 1)
- **Salicylic Acid Application:** salicylic acid 25% in alcoholic solution was applied with a fan-shaped brush in order to obtain an uniform and homogeneous dispersion (Photo 2, 3)
- **Salicylic Acid Removal:** the precipitate was removed with physiologic solution (Photo 4, 5)
- **TCA 10% Application:** the gel was applicated with a cotton tipped applicator by single aesthetic-anatomic subunit in order to control and modulate the frosting evolution. (Photo 6)

We looked for a white-pink frosting, in order to reach the epidermis and the superficial layers of papillary dermis;

- **Inactivation:** the frosting was modulated using physiologic solution

POST-PEEL PHASE:

the post-treatment regimen consisted of cutaneous hydration with moisturizers, and daily use of high-spectrum sunscreens (an ultraviolet UV A/B 50 sunscreen).



RESULTS

Results were evaluated 3 months after the beginning of treatment. All the 12 patients with epidermic melasma obtained a complete regression of the skin hyperpigmentation. All the 8 patients with mixed melasma had a significant reduction of the hyperpigmentation. No side effects were observed either during or after the treatment. In patients with total resolution no relapses are observed after 6 months from the end of the treatment with chemical peeling.