Reviewer’s report

Title: Assessment of the effects of skin microneedling as adjuvant therapy for facial melasma: a pilot study.

Version: 0 Date: 25 May 2017

Reviewer: Amit Pandya

Reviewer’s report:

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This is an interesting article studying microneedling for melasma. Comments below:

1. The authors state there is good evidence of long term improvement with microneedling (line 36), however, the references they cite are a review and their own open label, non-controlled study. This is not good evidence of long term improvement.

2. Line 56 states the patients were not on specific treatment, however, they were all on triple combination cream

3. The authors should report the severity of melasma in in all 6 patients...mild, moderate, or severe?

4. How long did a patient need to be on treatment before she was considered refractory?

5. For the sample size calculation, what was the primary outcome measure and what is the effect size measuring? Colorimetry?

6. The improvement reported by the patients in smoothness and overall radiance is not the same as improvement in pigmentation.

7. One of the most important limitations of this study is the lack of a control group. the improvement in all patients could have been due to the triple combination cream and have nothing to do with microneedling.

8. One of the main outcome measures should have been the delta (difference) between involved and uninvolved skin using the colorimeter, which is also called the melanin index.

9. The image of the patient shows a woman with mild to moderate melasma, yet the mean MASI score in the table represents extremely severe melasma. Please include a typical patient.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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