Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 31 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Raja Sivamani

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have responded to the critiques and have made the requested changes to the documents. This is an interesting and thought-provoking concept investigated by the authors. This study is a pilot study and will require further studies with properly selected controls to truly understand how microneedles modulate melasma. Hopefully, this manuscript will stimulate more detailed work in this area. There are several revisions that are essential:

1) Please revise the English as the grammar is off in areas throughout the manuscript.

2) Microneedles can directly stimulate epidermal thickening and increase dermal collagen, even in the absence of melasma. Therefore, the presence of epidermal thickening and increased dermal collagen may not even be related to melasma and may be an independent effect of the microneedles. This can be evaluated in further studies but the point that microneedles can independently increase epidermal thickening and increase dermal collagen, even in those without melasma, needs to be added to the limitations of the study.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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.

Yes

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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