A NEW PROPRIETARY GEL CONTAINING GLABRIDIN, ANDROGRAPHOLID, AND APOLACTOFERRIN IMPROVES THE APPEARANCE OF MELASMA: A PILOT OPEN-LABEL 6-MONTH STUDY

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Introduction: Melasma is a very common multifactorial dermatological disorder characterized by a hyperpigmentation of the skin. Treatment of melasma is considered a real challenge for the dermatologist and requires an accurate clinical evaluation. In the last decades, several natural and botanic compound have gained increasing popularity because of their poor collateral effects and possibility to treat also dark skin.

Objective: This pilot open-label study evaluated the appearance of melasma after 6 months of twice-daily application of a nonprescription proprietary gel formulation containing glabridin, andrographolide, and apolactoferrin.

Materials and Methods: Forty women with melasma (Fitzpatrick skin types II-VI) were included in the study. The following endpoints were assessed at baseline and at the end of the study: photographic evaluation, in vivo Reflectance Confocal Microscopy (RCM), X-rite, Wood’s lamp, and Melasma Area And Severity Index (MASI). A self-administered questionnaire was used to investigate cosmetic acceptability and safety.

Results: the end of the study, a statistically significant reduction (p<0.05) for all study outcomes was observed. There were no dropouts and cosmetic acceptability was rated as excellent by all of the study patients. A mild and transitory xerosis was the only adverse event observed.

Conclusions: This pilot study shows that the gel test is effective in treating melasma as confirmed by X-Rite, MASI and RCM. Furthermore, it proves the potential and advantages of using RCM, a non-invasive diagnostic tool, to record and document efficacy of a new depigmenting agent in the treatment of melasma.