



AESTHETIC AND COSMETIC DERMATOLOGY (LASERS SEPARATE CATEGORY)

## TOPICAL 5-FLUOROURACIL IMPROVES THE APPEARANCE OF PIGMENTED FACIAL LESIONS IN OLDER CAUCASIAN MEN

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**Background:** Global photo-numeric aging scales have not detected a change in facial photo-damage after a course of topical 5-fluorouracil (5-FU). The objective of this study is to determine the effect of 5-FU on pigmented lesions using the validated Facial Pigmented Lesion Scale (FPLS).

**Methods:** Patients were enrolled in the nationwide Veterans Affairs Keratinocyte Carcinoma Chemoprevention trial, a randomized controlled study receiving a placebo, vehicle-controlled cream or a standard course of 5-FU to the face and ears. Photographs of patients were taken at baseline and every 6 months. Two blinded reviewers graded baseline and 12-month photographs of patients using the FPLS. Subjects with marked pigmented AKs or clinical seborrheic keratosis were excluded from analysis.

**Results:** 4 of 12 participating sites were analyzed this study because all participants at these sites had AKs clinically marked. 348 subjects were enrolled, of which 111 met inclusion criteria. Baseline to 12-month darkness of facial pigmented lesions showed lightening of lesions in the 5-FU (-0.45), but not control (-0.15) group ( $p < .01$ ). There was no significant difference in the extent of facial pigmented lesions in 5-FU (-0.14) vs control (-0.06).

**Conclusion:** A single 2-4 week course of topical 5-FU lightens pigmented facial lesions in treated skin

