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PIGMENTATION

## CYSTEAMINE: A NEW TREATMENT FOR MELASMA

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Cysteamine hydrochloride is known for its potent depigmenting activity since 1960's, when different in vivo studies showed the higher depigmenting efficacy of this molecule compared to hydroquinone. Superiority of cysteamine to hydroquinone was recently confirmed in vitro. Scientis Pharma has released an innovative technology to stabilise cysteamine, making it utilizable as a topical product. Topical cysteamine exhibited a significant melanogenesis inhibiting effect in different in vitro and in vivo models. Two double-blind, placebo-controlled randomized human trials in patients with epidermal melasma showed the significant efficacy of topical cysteamine for hyperpigmentary disorders such as melasma.

Cysteamine is biologically produced in mammalian cells and serves as an intracellular antioxidant. This molecule is FDA approved as eye-drops and as an oral medication and has a long history of safety for human use. The anti-mutagenic and anti-carcinogenic effects of cysteamine are previously shown in numerous studies. With its high efficacy and safety profiles, topical cysteamine has a higher benefit/risk ratio compared to hydroquinone and might serve as a new safe and effective skin depigmenting agent for the treatment of hyperpigmentary disorders such as melasma.



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