



PIGMENTATION

## VALIDITY OF MELASMA SEVERITY (MSI) AS A SCORING SYSTEM FOR MELASMA IN DIFFERENT POPULATION GROUPS AND SKIN TYPES: A MULTICENTRIC STUDY

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**Introduction:** Melasma Severity Index (MSI) has been proposed as a new, more practical scoring system in melasma.

**Objective:** To test the validity of MSI in scoring melasma in different population groups and multiple skin types.

**Methods:** This multicentric study was performed in 5 dermatology centres catering to patients of multiple skin types and ethnicities. At each centre, 20-25 patients of melasma were recruited and called for assessment together. Three trained dermatologists then assessed the severity of melasma by means of MASI and MSI scores independently in separate examination rooms. In addition, each rating dermatologist assessed MASI and MSI scores for 'ease of calculation' on 1-10 scale with '0' for toughest and '10' for easiest scoring method.

**Results:** A total of 108 patients were enrolled and there was a strong degree of agreement among the raters for both MASI (ICC=0.978, 95% CI 0.970-0.985) and MSI (ICC=0.984, 95% CI 0.977-0.988) scores. The ICC values suggested a stronger inter-rater reliability for MSI when compared with that of MASI scoring. Additionally, ICC values were similar for MSI and MASI scores in each individual skin type. On the ease of calculation score, MSI performed significantly better with a mean score of 7.2 in comparison to mean score of 4.3 for MASI.

**Conclusions:** MSI is a reliable and easier scoring system for melasma applicable in multiple skin types and population groups

