

Table SI. Characteristics of trials included in the systematic review

Study	Country	Study design	Drug arms	Regimen	Assessment time	Patients n	Age, years	Female %	Duration of FU
Song et al. (15) 2014	Korea	Non-RCT (prospective open-label study)	Oral TA	1,500 mg/day, 6 months	6 months	15->9	43.3 (32-55)	100	6 months
Tan et al. (14) 2016	Singapore	Non-RCT (retrospective chart review)	Oral TA	500 mg/day for a mean period of 3.7±0.33 months	3 months	25	47.2±1.61	92	6 months
Budamakuntla et al. (18) 2013	India	RCT	Microinjection TA Microneedling TA	TA (4 mg/ml) injected at 1 cm intervals monthly for 3 months Microneedling carried out in vertical, horizontal, and both diagonal directions for about 4-5 times. TA (4 mg/ml) was applied and the procedure was repeated for 4-5 times.	6 months	30 30	18-50	90	6 months
Lee et al. (7) 2006	Korea	Non-RCT (prospective open-pilot study)	Microinjection TA	0.05 ml TA (4 mg/ml) injected at 1 cm intervals weekly for 12 weeks	3 months	85	38 (29-46)	100	3 months
Mangal & Parsad (17) 2014	India	Non-RCT (prospective open-pilot study)	Microinjection TA	TA (4 mg/ml) injected at 1 cm intervals weekly for 12 weeks	3 months	50		100	3 months
Steiner et al.(16) 2009	Brazil	RCT	Topical TA Microinjection TA	3% TA twice a day for 3 months 12 applications of intradermal TA injections (4 mg/ml) weekly	3 months 3 months	8 10->9	40.58 (23-52)	100	3 months
Ebrahimi & Naeini (19) 2014	Iran	RCT (a split-face trial)	Other topical melasma treatment IPL+topical TA	3% hydroquinone+0.01% dexamethasone twice a day 4 monthly sessions of IPL+2 % TA	3 months 3 months	50->39 50->39	40±4.63	100	3 months
Chung et al. (22) 2015	Korea	RCT (split-face)	IPL+topical TA IPL+vehicle	4 monthly sessions of IPL+2 % TA 4 monthly sessions of IPL+vehicle	3 months after the last IPL	13	41.38±4.37	100	7 months
Karr et al. (20) 2012	Nepal	RCT	Oral TA+other topical melasma treatment	500 mg/day+hydroquinone+sunscreen	3 months	130	30.3±9.01 (17-55)	83.5	6 months
Padhi & Pradhan (21) 2015	India	RCT	Other topical melasma treatment Triple combination cream	Hydroquinone+sunscreen 0.01% fluocinolone acetamide+0.05% tretinoin+2% hydroquinone cream once daily for 8 weeks	2 months	20	35.85±7.614	75	8 months
Cho et al. (23) 2013	Korea	Non-RCT (retrospective chart review)	Oral TA+triple combination cream Oral TA+IPL+laser	500 mg/day+triple combination cream once daily for 8 weeks 500 mg/day+Patients were treated with a single session of IPL. After 2-3 weeks, patients revisited the clinic for subsequent low fluence QSNL laser (mean 6-8 passes). A total of 3-4 sessions of QSNL at 1-2 weeks interval.	2 weeks after the last laser treatment	24	39.63±7.22	100	8 months
			IPL+laser	Patients were treated with a single session of IPL. After 2-3 weeks, patients revisited the clinic for subsequent low fluence QSNL laser (mean 6-8 passes). A total of 3-4 sessions of QSNL at 1-2 weeks interval.		27	41.48±9.30		

IPL: intense pulsed light; TA: tranexamic acid; RCT: randomized controlled trial; QSNL: Q-switched neodymium; FU: follow-up.