

Clinical Trial Protocol

Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials

12 Sep 2026

1- Comparison of Efficacy, safety, satisfaction and treatment durability of intradermal injection of 10% tranexamic acid versus 5% topical tranexamic acid cream in patients under treatment with topical Modified Kligman's formula plus fractional Q-switch 1064 Nd:YAG laser, Triple arm, parallel groups, Assessor analysis blinded, Randomized controlled, Clinical Trial

Protocol summary

Study aim

To evaluate the efficacy of Q-switched ND:YAG laser plus tranexamic acid (injection/topical) for melasma, compared to standard treatment with modified Kligman's formula.

Design

Randomized, three-arm, double-blind clinical trial with permuted block randomization; assessor and analyst blinded; minimum 15 patients per group; intention-to-treat analysis.

Settings and conduct

Conducted at dermatology clinic of Hazrat Fatemeh Hospital; patients enrolled after informed consent and randomized; outcomes (mMASI, VAS) assessed at baseline, 8 weeks and 1 month post-treatment; sunscreen use permitted during follow-up.

Participants/Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Aged 18 to 60 years; diagnosed with melasma on cheeks or forehead; patients referred to dermatology clinic of Rasul Akram Hospital; willing to provide informed consent; able to attend follow-up visits; no melasma treatment in past one month. Major exclusion criteria prior to randomization: History of other inflammatory skin diseases in melasma areas, photosensitivity disorders, pregnancy or lactation, allergy to Kligman's formula, recent melasma treatments (past 3 months), uncontrolled systemic diseases, recent hormonal therapy, non-compliance risk, interfering scars/tattoos, Fitzpatrick skin type VI

Intervention groups

Control group: Q-switched ND:YAG 1064nm laser (2 sessions with 4-week intervals) plus modified Kligman's formula every other night for 8 weeks. Injection group:

same laser and cream as control plus intradermal 10% tranexamic acid injections (dose adjusted by lesion extent) at baseline, week 4, and week 8. Topical group: same laser and cream as control plus topical 5% tranexamic acid applied every other night alternating with Kligman's formula for 8 weeks.

Main outcome variables

Melasma severity measured by mMASI score; symptom severity (pain, irritation) measured by Visual Analogue Scale; patient satisfaction and adverse events.

General information

Reason for update

Acronym

IRCT registration information

IRCT registration number: **IRCT20250522065847N1**

Registration date: **2025-08-08, 1404/05/17**

Registration timing: **registered_while_recruiting**

Last update: **2025-08-08, 1404/05/17**

Update count: **0**

Registration date

2025-08-08, 1404/05/17

Registrant information

Name

Hamid Rahimi

Name of organization / entity

Country

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Phone

+98 939 485 7623

Email address

Recruitment status**Recruitment complete****Funding source****Expected recruitment start date**

2025-04-21, 1404/02/01

Expected recruitment end date

2026-03-21, 1405/01/01

Actual recruitment start date

empty

Actual recruitment end date

empty

Trial completion date

empty

Scientific title

1- Comparison of Efficacy, safety, satisfaction and treatment durability of intradermal injection of 10% tranexamic acid versus 5% topical tranexamic acid cream in patients under treatment with topical Modified Kligman's formula plus fractional Q-switch 1064 Nd:YAG laser, Triple arm, parallel groups, Assessor analysis blinded, Randomized controlled, Clinical Trial

Public title

This trial compares intradermal 10% vs. topical 5% tranexamic acid for melasma treatment alongside modified Kligman's formula and Q-switched Nd:YAG laser.

Purpose

Treatment

Inclusion/Exclusion criteria**Inclusion criteria:**

The study includes individuals with melasma presenting unilaterally, bilaterally, or on the forehead.

Exclusion criteria:

1. Presence of other inflammatory dermatoses in the affected areas (e.g., rosacea, lupus, atopic dermatitis) 2. History of photosensitive disorders or use of photosensitizing medications 3. Pregnancy or lactation at the time of study entry 4. History of hypersensitivity or allergy to Kligman's formula or any of its components 5. Undergoing effective treatments for melasma (e.g., laser therapy, chemical peeling, microneedling) within the past 3 months 6. Uncontrolled systemic diseases (e.g., uncontrolled diabetes, active hepatic or renal disease) 7. Use of hormonal medications (e.g., oral contraceptives or hormone therapy) within the past 3 months 8. Lack of willingness to adhere to treatment protocols or attend follow-up visits 9. Presence of prominent scars or tattoos in the melasma-affected areas that may interfere with evaluation

AgeFrom **18 years** old to **60 years** old**Gender**

Both

Phase

N/A

Groups that have been masked

- Investigator

Sample sizeTarget sample size: **45****Randomization (investigator's opinion)**

Randomized

Randomization description

Here's the English translation of your text in a clear and academic tone: Randomization and Allocation Method: In the present study, participants will be allocated to groups using permuted block randomization. First, a randomization sequence will be generated by the researchers, followed by participant recruitment. Blocks of three will be formed, and blocks will be selected randomly until the required sample size is achieved. To maintain allocation concealment, the interventions will be coded as A, B, and C, without revealing the actual treatment names. This process ensures randomization concealment. Allocation to groups, patient enrollment, and treatment side designation will be performed by the first assessor according to the described protocol. In cases of protocol deviations, including issues related to treatment allocation, randomization, or follow-up completion, intention-to-treat (ITT) analysis will be employed. Only participants with at least 80% compliance will be included in the analysis. Those with lower compliance will be excluded from the study.

Blinding (investigator's opinion)

Double blinded

Blinding description

The present study will be conducted in a double-blind manner, meaning that both the assessor and the data analyst will be blinded to the group allocation and the type of treatment administered to each participant.

Placebo

Not used

Assignment

Parallel

Other design features**Secondary Ids**

empty

Ethics committees**1****Ethics committee****Name of ethics committee**

"Ethics Committee of Iran University of Medical Sciences"

Street address

Iran University of Medical Sciences Shahid Hemmat Highway (beside Milad Tower), Kooy Nasr (Kuy-e Nasr), Tehran, Iran

City

Tehran

Province

Tehran

Postal code

1449614535

Approval date

Health conditions studied

1

Description of health condition studied

Melasma

ICD-10 code

L81.1

ICD-10 code description

Chloasma

Primary outcomes

1

Description

Melasma severity is evaluated based on the Melasma Area and Severity Index (MASI) score in the forehead, right malar, and left malar regions. The MASI score incorporates assessment of involved area, pigmentation intensity, and homogeneity of the lesion.

Timepoint

MASI is measured at baseline (before the start of treatment), one month after the start of treatment, and two months after the start of treatment.

Method of measurement

Clinical examination and recording of MASI score by a dermatologist using the standard calculation formula

2

Description

Overall patient satisfaction with the treatment outcome is assessed two months after the start of treatment using a 5-point ordinal scale (excellent, good, moderate, poor, no satisfaction).

Timepoint

At the end of the second month of treatment

Method of measurement

Patient interview and recording of response using an ordinal scale form

Secondary outcomes

1

Description

The intensity of itching in the treated area

Timepoint

Immediately after treatment, one week after treatment, and one month after treatment

Method of measurement

Patient-reported numerical rating scale from zero (no itching) to ten (worst imaginable itching)

2

Description

The intensity of burning sensation in the treated area

Timepoint

Immediately after treatment, one week after treatment, and one month after treatment

Method of measurement

Patient-reported numerical rating scale from zero (no burning) to ten (worst imaginable burning)

3

Description

Patient satisfaction level regarding treatment outcome

Timepoint

One month and two months after the beginning of treatment

Method of measurement

Patient-reported five-point Likert scale satisfaction questionnaire (from completely dissatisfied to completely satisfied)

Intervention groups

1

Description

Control group: Participants in the control group receive fractional Q-switched 1064-nm ND:YAG laser therapy with melasma-specific settings (average energy 600 nm, 5 Hz, spot size = 5 mm, 1500 shots for full face or 300–400 shots per cheek). Two sessions are performed four weeks apart. Additionally, they apply a topical Modified Kligman's formula consisting of hydroquinone 4 g, vitamin C 3 g, and retinol 3 cc in cold cream base up to 100 g, every other night for 8 weeks.

Category

Treatment - Drugs

2

Description

Intervention group: Intervention group 1: Participants receive intradermal injections of 10% tranexamic acid based on the severity of melasma: mild (0.5 cc), moderate (1 cc), severe (1.5–2 cc per cheek), up to 4 cc for the full face. Injections are administered in three sessions, each four weeks apart: at baseline (after first laser session), four weeks after the second laser session, and four weeks after completion of the second laser session.

Category

Treatment - Drugs

3

Description

Intervention group: Intervention group 2: Participants apply topical 5% tranexamic acid (Dermalift) and Modified Kligman's formula every other night on the affected areas. The Modified Kligman's formula contains hydroquinone 4 g, vitamin C 3 g, and retinol 3 cc in cold cream base up to 100 g. Treatment continues for 8 weeks.

Category

Recruitment centers

1

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

Hazrat Fatemeh Super Specialty Plastic Surgery
Hospital

Full name of responsible person

Hamid Rahimi

Street address

Laser Unit, 2nd Floor, Hazrat Fatemeh Hospital, 23rd
Asadabadi St., Asadabadi St., Yusef Abad, Tehran

City

Tehran

Province

Tehran

Postal code

1433933111

Phone

+98 21 8871 7272

Fax

+98 21 8810 7658

Email

crtfatima@iums.ac.ir

Web page address

https://crtfatima.iums.ac.ir

Sponsors / Funding sources

1

Sponsor

Name of organization / entity

Iran University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Deputy of Research and Technology, Iran University
of Medical Sciences

Street address

Hemmat Highway, Beside Milad Tower, Deputy of
Research, Iran University of Medical Sciences

City

Tehran

Province

Tehran

Postal code

1449614535

Phone

+98 21 86701

Email

info@iums.ac.ir

Grant name

Grant code / Reference number

Is the source of funding the same sponsor organization/entity?

Yes

Title of funding source

Iran University of Medical Sciences

Proportion provided by this source

100

Public or private sector

Public

Domestic or foreign origin

Domestic

Category of foreign source of funding

empty

Country of origin

Type of organization providing the funding

Academic

Person responsible for general inquiries

Contact

Name of organization / entity

Iran University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Hamid Rahimi

Position

Resident

Latest degree

Medical doctor

Other areas of specialty/work

Dermatology

Street address

Asadabadi St., Alley 21, Hazrat Fatemeh Hospital,
Yousef Abad, Tehran

City

Tehran

Province

Tehran

Postal code

1444763735

Phone

+98 21 4447 4661

Email

Rahimihamid1372@gmail.com

Person responsible for scientific inquiries

Contact

Name of organization / entity

Iran University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Dr. Azadeh Goodarzi

Position

Dermatologist

Latest degree

Specialist

Other areas of specialty/work

Dermatology

Street address

: Asadabadi St., Alley 21, Hazrat Fatemeh Hospital,
Yousef Abad, Tehran

City

Tehran

Province

Tehran

Postal code

1433933111

Phone

+98 21 8870 0528

Email

azadeh.goodarzi@gmail.com

Person responsible for updating data**Contact****Name of organization / entity**

Iran University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Azadeh Goodarzi

Position

Dermatologist

Latest degree

Specialist

Other areas of specialty/work

Dermatology

Street address

Asadabadi St., Alley 21, Hazrat Fatemeh Hospital,
Yousef Abad, Tehran

City

Tehran

Province

Tehran

Postal code

1444763735

Phone

+98 21 4447 4661

Email

azadeh.goodarzi@gmail.com

Sharing plan**Deidentified Individual Participant Data Set (IPD)**

Yes - There is a plan to make this available

Study Protocol

Yes - There is a plan to make this available

Statistical Analysis Plan

Yes - There is a plan to make this available

Informed Consent Form

Yes - There is a plan to make this available

Clinical Study Report

Yes - There is a plan to make this available

Analytic Code

Yes - There is a plan to make this available

Data Dictionary

Undecided - It is not yet known if there will be a plan to make this available

Title and more details about the data/document

De-identified individual participant data including age, gender, baseline and final MASI scores, type of intervention, and clinical outcomes. Only anonymized data with no identifying information will be shared.

When the data will become available and for how long

Data will be available six months after study completion and publication of the main results. The access period begins six months after the publication date

To whom data/document is available

Academic researchers and qualified research institutions with a formal request and a clear scientific objective.

Under which criteria data/document could be used

Data may only be used for research purposes such as meta-analyses, secondary data analysis, or validation of results. Requesters must sign a Data Use Agreement (DUA) prior to access.

From where data/document is obtainable

Requests should be submitted to the principal investigator:

What processes are involved for a request to access data/document

The request must be submitted formally via email to the principal investigator. Upon review and approval of the research purpose, a Data Use Agreement (DUA) will be sent. Once signed, data will be provided within 2-4 working weeks.

Comments

All data will be encrypted and shared in Excel or CSV format. Data sharing will comply with ethical research standards and participant confidentiality protection.