

## TRANEXAMIC ACID



Tranexamic acid is a relatively new treatment for melasma. It is a treatment that promotes coagulation and is therefore used in bleeding, for example menstrual or before a dental extraction or surgery.

- Tranexamic acid has the ability to inhibit plasmin and therefore its procoagulant effect occurs. It seems that plasmin has melanogenic properties, that is, the ability to darken the skin, which would be inhibited by tranexamic acid (1,2).
- A second mechanism capable of inhibiting vascular factors (VEGF) also seems to be involved in the background.

How is topical tranexamic acid used and how effective is it?

Research works use topical tranexamic acid concentrations between 2 and 5% in creams or solutions, for long periods of 6 to 12 weeks (1-3).

Is oral tranexamic acid effective when creams don't work?

• If it appears like this in some jobs. In a recent study of 25 patients who did not respond to cream treatments for three months, it was found that low doses of oral tranexamic acid (250 mg / twice daily) cleared their melasma by 70% on average (4).



- **1.** Perper M, Eber AE, Fayne R, et al. Tranexamic acid in the treatment of melasma: a review of the literature. *Am J Clin Dermatol* 2017; 18: 373-381.
- **2.** Taraz M, Niknam S, Ehsani AH. Tranexamic acid in treatment of melasma: a comprehensive review of clinical studies. *Dermatol Ther* 2017; 30.
- **3.** Bala HR, Lee S, Wong C, et al. Oral tranexamic acid for the treatment of melasma: a review. *Dermatol Surg* 2018; 0: 1-12.
- **4**. Tan AWM,Sen P, Chua SH. Oral tranexamic acid lightens refractory melasma. *Australas J Dermatol* 2017; 58: 105-108.