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Melasma – a New Treatment Option for a Challenging Disease

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SUMMARY

The treatment of melasma remains challenging. There are numerous treatment options, including topical agents, chemical peels and laser treatments. In addition to the full-beam Nd:YAG Q-switched laser treatment, fractional laser therapy could be a gentle way of reducing pigments as well as the vascular involvement of melasma. The new FS50B handpiece for Fotona's QX MAX KTP (532nm) laser has been used to reduce melasma in patients.

The advantage of a fractional laser treatment can be seen in a more gentle way of treatment with less downtime, leaving the surrounded tissue unaffected or only minimally affected by the laser treatment. There is only slight redness of the laser-treated skin observed after a short period of time. Side effects such as postinflammatory hyperpigmentation after laser treatment as well as punctate leukoderma should be reduced with the FS50B handpiece.

Dance of the Cells – What Really Happens

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SUMMARY

What happens when laser light hits the tissue? This process can be investigated on different levels. On the surface level, one will simply see that a wound is created that goes through the mechanisms of repair and results in desired effects such as tighter skin. However, on the level of genes this process is quite more complex. It can be described by the image of an orchestra, consisting of instruments playing smoothly together – these are the genes. This interaction can be heavily disturbed when it is the turn of one special instrument: the kettledrum, that will destroy the smoothness of the former interplay – this is the laser. What happens after the disturbance and what is needed to establish a new order will be the topic of my lecture.

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