

Reply to: “Lightening Becker nevus: Role of topical therapies”



To the Editor: I thank Dr Kansal for his interesting comments.¹ Indeed, the phrasing “the involved area is first treated topically with 70% glycolic acid solution (Fig 1, A), immediately followed by topical application of 10% sodium bicarbonate” would be clearer. However, using “day 1” or “first treatment” is a wording preference.

We are aware of Dr Taheri’s work showing that topical flutamide improved pigmentation with no follow-up. But topical flutamide may not work for all patients because not all Becker nevi are associated with androgen. In contrast, glycolic acid may benefit most, if not all, patients because it acts as a chemical peeling agent. Certainly, azelaic acid could also benefit Becker nevus, but we could not find supporting evidence in PubMed (www.pubmed.com) when we used the search terms *Becker nevus* and *azelaic acid*, although it may be documented elsewhere. Therefore, we believe that treatment of Becker nevus with topical glycolic acid is novel. Of course, studies in a larger population with long-term follow-up

would be desirable to ascertain the efficacy of topical therapies.

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REFERENCE

1. Kansal NK. Lightening Becker nevus: role of topical therapies. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2019;80:e39.

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