Introduction

Pigmentary disorders are commonly seen in dermatology practice. Ultraviolet light and a variety of hormones are known to affect pigment cell function and proliferation and create alteration in pigmentations such as melasma, lentigines and freckles (Taylor et al., 2008).

Pigmentary disorders are often psychologically devastating and they can affect psychosocial and psychosexual identity, so the resolution of pigmentary disorders can improve the quality of life of patients (Balkrishnan et al., 2004).

Freckles are one of the most common pigmentary disorders, mainly located on sun-exposed skin. They are benign pigmented spots, posing no health risk, however they have increasingly received attention due to cosmetic concerns (Yang et al., 2008). Also, concern about them arises due to their association with an increased risk of skin cancer (Gandini et al., 2005).

There are different treatment modalities for freckles, however avoidance of sun exposure and regular use of sunscreens are necessary to decrease the development of additional lesions and to prevent the recurrence after treatment (Stulberg and Clark, 2003).

Freckles can be treated by ablative therapies such as chemical peels, cryotherapy and laser therapy, and by topical bleaching agents such as hydroquinone, retinoids and kojic acid (Plensdorf and Martinez, 2009).

Aim of the work

The aim of this work is to evaluate the efficacy and safety of cryotherapy versus trichloroacetic acid 18% and mandelic acid 50% in treatment of freckles.