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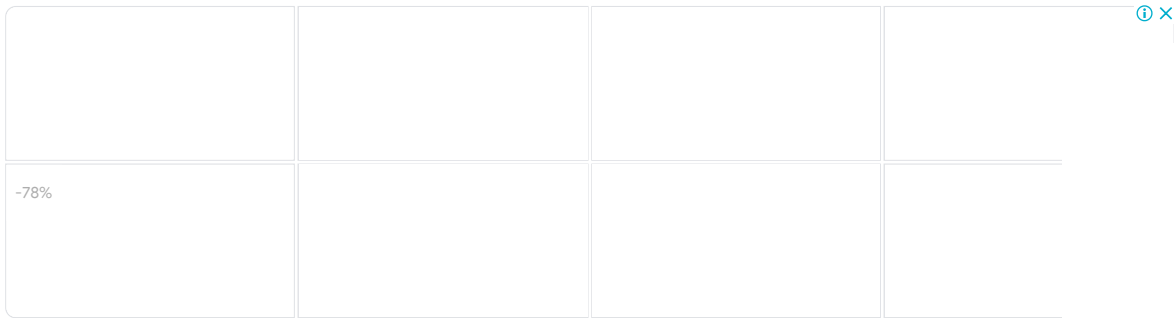
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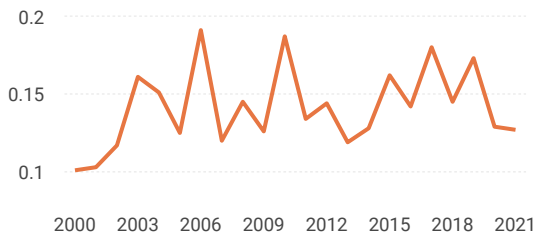
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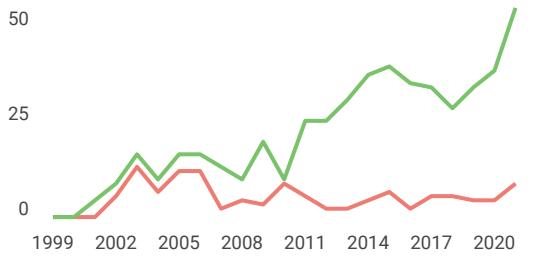
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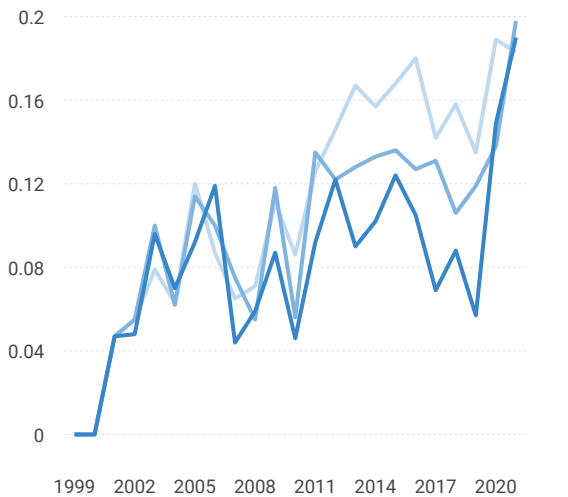
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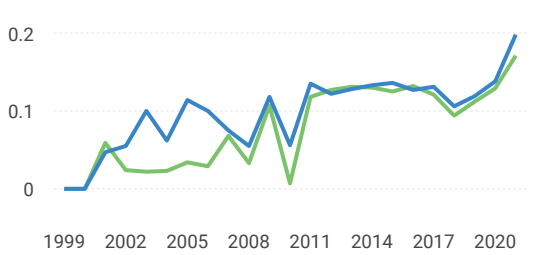
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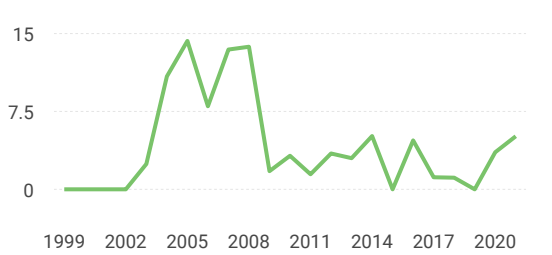
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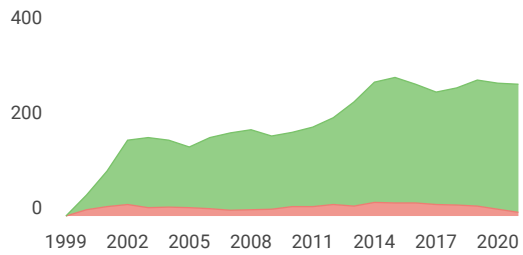
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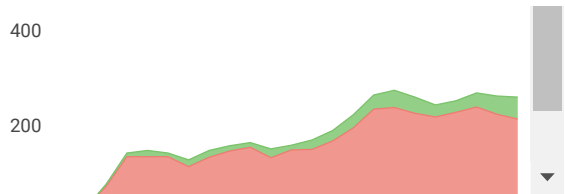
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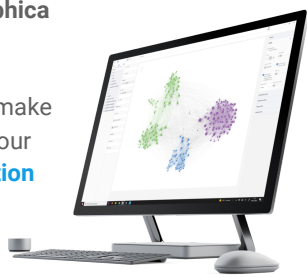
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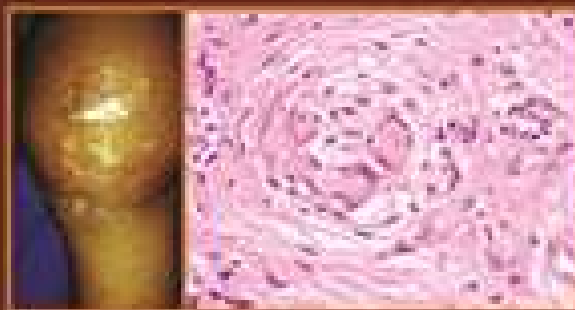
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Editorial

Skin and vitamin D: New aspects for dermatology

Mahwish Zahoor, Shehla Shaukat, Amina Afzal, Ijaz Hussain

372-374



Original Articles

Efficacy and safety of platelet rich plasma therapy in male androgenetic alopecia

Begum Bodrun Sultana, Harasit Kumar Paul

375-381



ECG manifestations of meglumine antimoniate in treatment of cutaneous leishmaniasis

Anila Panezai, Sara Inayat, Dr. Saifullah, Dr. Habib Ullah, Mehvish Afridi, Sehrish Ghani

382-387



Acquired palmoplantar keratoderma: A study of clinical, histopathological and patch test findings

Ridhi Singh, Smitha S Prabhu, Balachandran C, Kanthilatha Pai
388-395



Combined intralesional and intramuscular sodium stibogluconate appears more effective in the treatment of localized cutaneous leishmaniasis lesions, An experimental study

Hamad Ayed Alfahaad
396-401



The frequency of different morphological variants of lichen planus in HCV seropositive patients

Rabia Javaid, Saelah Batool, Ashba Cheema, Ayesha Anwar, Anila Asghar, Aisha Ghias, Muhammad Azam Bokhari, Shahbaz Aman
402-407



Salalah eruption: Regional variant of papular urticaria

Pramod Kumar
408-411



Photoprotection and skin whitening effect of dietary soy milk in healthy young female adults

Hasnah Haron, Adawiyah Jamil, Nor Azmirawati Awang Besar
412-417



Intralesional Vitamin D3 for palmoplantar warts : A novel modality

Dr. Samta, Sumir Kumar, B.K. Brar
418-422



Comparison of safety and efficacy of low dose isotretinoin versus the conventional dosing regime in the treatment of acne vulgaris

Leena Hafeez, Aamina Noureen Khan, Abeer Aslam, Raheel Tahir, Aymon Shafi, Ammar Akhtar
423-427



Narrow-Band ultraviolet B phototherapy for the treatment of Iraqi patients with uremic pruritus

Samer Dhafer, Aamer A Hassan

428-433



PDF

Knowledge of patients, relatives and non-relatives and their attitude towards vitiligo

Abdel-Hady El-Gilany, Abeer Mahfouz, Moheiddin El-Ghobary, Hassan Fayed

434-440



PDF

A clinico-pathological study of cutaneous vasculitis in a tertiary hospital of North India

Jaspriya Sandhu, Sunil Kumar Gupta, Bhavna Garg, Neena Sood

441-448



PDF

A split face comparative study to evaluate the efficacy of skin microneedling and platelet rich plasma (PRP) combination versus skin microneedling alone for treatment of post acne scars

Saurabh Sharma, Tanreet Kaur, Roopam Bassi

449-455



PDF

Frequency of skin diseases and associated factors in a tertiary care hospital in Karachi

Muhammad Waqaruddin Sheroze, Syed Ali Haider Zaidi, Behzad Bin Mehmood, Erum Khan, Syeda Afia Ali, Sumyyah Mazher, Kanwal Jamal

456-460



PDF

Dermoscopic patterns in active and regressive lichen planus

Aisha Ghias, Atiya Arshad, Madiha Sanai, Aneela Asghar, Saelah Batool, Zunaira Arshad, Tahir Jameel Ahmad

461-467



PDF

Safety and efficacy of hydroxychloroquine in patients of symptomatic oral lichen planus

Megha Sondhi, Karaninder Singh Mehta, Vikram Mahajan, Pushpinder Singh Chauhan, Ashish Minhas, Niharika Dhattarwal, Ashwani Rana

468-473



PDF

Frequency of oral involvement in patients with pemphigus vulgaris presenting in a tertiary care hospital Quetta

Dr. Saifullah, Sara Inayat, Anila Panezai, Mehvish Afridi, Dr. Habib Ullah, Sehrish Ghani
474-478

 PDF

Frequency of dyslipidaemia in patients with plaque psoriasis in Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Zia ul Haq, Mehran khan, Ambreen Afridi, Naimat Ullah
479-484

 PDF

Efficacy of topical application of a mixture of amniotic membrane stem cell metabolic products and vitamin C after microneedling treatment in patients with photoaging

Cita Rosita Sigit Prakoeswa, Zada Febrial Effendy, Nanny Herwanto, Evy Ervianty, Fedik A. Rantam
485-489

 PDF

Cutaneous manifestations in patients with chronic kidney disease on hemodialysis

Shashikant Malkud, Veeresh Dyavannanavar, Sirisha Varala
490-496

 PDF

Review Articles

Finasteride and sperm concentration: Rapid systematic review

Abdulmajeed M Alajlan, Suliman Alfaraj
497-500

 PDF

Retroperitoneal hemorrhage – A review of the eponymous cutaneous signs

Sajad Ahmad Salati
501-506

 PDF

Case Reports

Unilateral Blaschkoid lichen planus: A case series of rare entity

Sukhmani Kaur Brar, Jaskirat Kaur

507-510

 PDF

Cutaneous granulomas in a child with Ataxia telangiectasia - A rare association

Shruti Dewang, Praneet Awake, P.L. Chandravathi, Vijaya Tourani

511-515

 PDF

Angioedema: Triggered by stress

Amal Ejaz, Moizza Tahir, Uzma Bashir, Sundus Jahangir

516-518

 PDF

A case report of Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, a dermatological emergency, secondary to amoxicillin-clavulanic acid use

Mustafa korkut, cihan bedel

519-521

 PDF

Reticulate acropigmentation of Kitamura with Dowling Degos disease overlap

MOHD MOHTASHIM, SYED SUHAIL AMIN, MOHAMMAD ADIL, ROOPAL BANSAL, DIVYA AGRAWAL, FATIMA TUZ ZAHRA

522-525

 PDF

Foreign body granulomas associated with polypropylene – A report

Sajad Ahmad Salati, Nazir Ahmad Lone

526-529

 PDF

Ulcerated cellular benign fibrous histiocytoma: A challenging diagnosis in biopsy practice

Vladimír Bartoš

530-534

 PDF

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Melanocyte count on leukotrichia in vitiligo using S100 protein immunohistochemistry before and after phototherapy: A case report

Putri Hendria Wardhani^{#*}, Cita Rosita Sigit Prakoeswa^{*}, M. Yulianto Listiawan^{*}, Linda Astari^{*}, Iskandar Zulkarnain^{*}, Dwi Murtiastutik^{*}, Trisniartami Setyaningrum^{*}

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Abstract

Vitiligo is the most common depigmentation disease with complex pathogenesis that is not well understood and therapeutic outcomes are often unsatisfactory. Leukotrichia in vitiligo is often associated with poor prognosis for vitiligo treatment. Until now narrowband ultraviolet B (NB-UVB) is considered the most effective and safe treatment for vitiligo. Evaluation of therapy by looking at the amount of melanocytes that can be seen with S100 protein immunohistochemistry will become more objective and accurate. Melanocyte count in four non segmental vitiligo patient with leukotrichia were evaluated. The patient was given only NB-UVB therapy twice a week for eight times. Skin biopsy was done before and after therapies using immunohistochemistry staining. The number of S100 protein in vitiligo patients with leukotrichia after NB-UVB therapy increased. Leukotrichia is a poor indicator for treatment response in vitiligo, but this case report showed that leucotrichia did not contribute to the lack of response upon medical treatment.

Key words

Melanocyte, phototherapy, S100 protein, vitiligo.

Introduction

Vitiligo is the most common depigmentation disease and the clinical manifestation is milk colored white macules. It is an acquired disease with complex pathogenesis that is not well understood so the evolution of the disease is unpredictable and the outcome of therapy is often unsatisfactory, this leads to a decrease in quality of life, anxiety, lack of confidence, and psychosocial stigma.^{1,2} Vitiligo accounts for 0.3-0.5% of the world's population. The prevalence

of vitiligo has shown an increase over the past few decades.^{1,3}

The principle of vitiligo therapy is to facilitate the repopulation of active melanocytes that can migrate, and perform the biosynthesis of melanin to the vitiligo patches. Until now Narrowband UVB (NB-UVB) is considered to be most effective and safe for vitiligo therapy.¹ Clinicians evaluate the results of vitiligo therapy only with clinical repigmentation percentage which is very subjective.^{1,4} This case report is trying to prove an evaluation that is more objective so that can help clinicians evaluate the result of therapy. The objective evaluation of repigmentation is important for clinicians as an indicator of success or failure of therapy. Evaluation of therapy by looking at the amount of melanocytes will become more objective and accurate.

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S100 protein is a cytoplasmic protein that will be expressed by melanocyte, very well known that S100 protein has a high sensitivity on melanocyte so it can help to visualize the amount of melanocyte.^{5,6} The S100 protein is a good marker in the diagnosis of melanocytic lesions but the diagnostic uses are limited by its broad expression, these antibodies not only describe melanocytes but also several other cell types, such as Schwann cells and Langerhans cells. Melanocyte will appear in the basal epidermis with long dendrites containing cytoplasm that surround keratinocytes.^{5,7}

Melanocyte in the hair follicle is one of the major sources of repigmentation in vitiligo. Leukotrichia is complete depigmentation with significant bleaching hair, often associated with absent of melanocyte. Leukotrichia in nonsegmental vitiligo may contribute to the lack of response to medical treatment, poor prognosis for vitiligo treatment.⁸

In this case report the amount of S100 protein in vitiligo patient with leukotrichia lesions prior to NB-UVB therapy is compared with amount after NB-UVB therapy.

Case report

Four non segmental vitiligo patient with leukotrichia were evaluated, all patients met the requirements and agreed to participate by signing information for consent, informed consent and medical action approval sheets. This case report was conducted from May 2017 until August 2017 at Dermatology and Venereology Outpatient Clinic, Dr. Soetomo General Hospital Surabaya. Each patient was recorded, then each patient was given only NB-UVB therapy twice a week for eight times and 3 mm biopsy was performed before and after NB-UVB therapy. S100 protein immunohistochemistry were performed to calculate the amount of S100

protein in five fields of view, one view per millimeter, the results were compared. S100 protein score data were obtained using the modified Remmele method, where the Remmele scale (Immuno Reactive Score/ IRS) index was the result of multiplication of immunoreactive cell percentage scores with color intensity scores on immunoreactive cells. Data for each sample is the average IRS value observed in 5 (five) View Fields (LP) at 1000x magnification.

Data in **Table 1** shows that all vitiligo patients with leukotrichia still have melanocyte and the amount increased after NB-UVB therapy. NB-UVB therapy there were at most twelve melanocytes in two fields of view and at least eight melanocytes. Before NB-UVB therapy there were at most six melanocytes in two fields of view, while after The amount of S100 protein in all vitiligo patients with leukotrichia after NB-UVB therapy increased compared to before NB-UVB therapy as we can see in **Figure 1 and 2**.

Table 1 The amount of S100 protein before and after NB-UVB

	<i>S100 Protein Before NB-UVB</i>	<i>S100 Protein After NB-UVB</i>
Patient 1	3	8
Patient 2	3	8
Patient 3	2	8
Patient 4	6	12

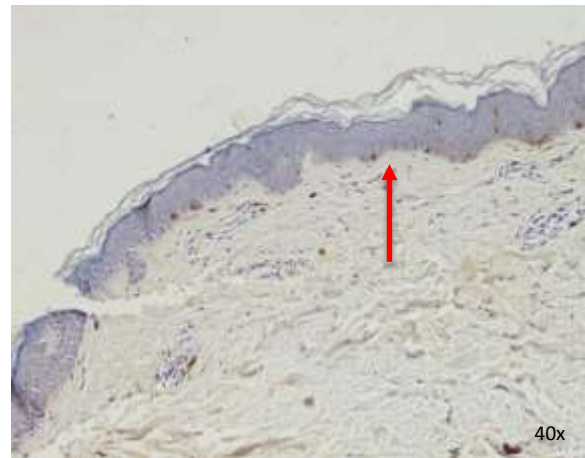


Figure 1 S100 protein before NB-UVB therapy in vitiligo with leukotrichia (40x magnifications).

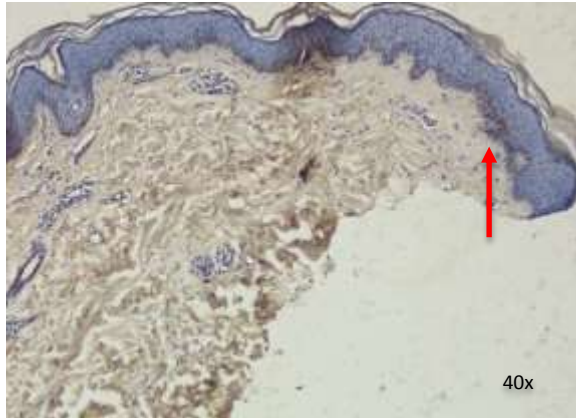


Figure 2 S100 Protein after NB-UVB therapy in vitiligo with leukotrichia (40x magnifications).

Discussion

Leukotrichia or complete depigmentation in hair in vitiligo due to decreased melanocytes in the hair bulb is often used as an indicator of prognosis for therapeutic response.² Lee and his colleagues stated that leukotrichia in vitiligo can contribute to the low response to therapy given,⁹ but this study showed that all of the vitiligo patients with leukotrichia still have melanocyte and the amount increased after NB-UVB therapy. NB-UVB itself can induce the activation of transcription to synthesize melanin found in melanosomes and is exported to keratinocytes.^{10,11} This is in line with the results of this case report that the amount of melanocytes using S100 protein after NB-UVB therapy increased compared to the amount before NB-UVB therapy. The clinical picture of the patient in **Figure 3 and 4** shows significant improvement as well.

Conclusion

Leukotrichia is known as poor indicator for treatment response in vitiligo, but this study showed that leukotrichia may not contribute to the lack of response upon medical treatment, and evaluation of therapy by looking at the amount of melanocytes that can be seen with S100 protein immunohistochemistry will become



Figure 3 Vitiligo with leukotrichia before NB-UVB therapy.



Figure 4 Vitiligo with leukotrichia after NB-UVB therapy.

more objective and accurate, but still need a further research.

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