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Clinical Image

Non Culture Melanocyte Transplant- A Novel Tool in the Armamentarium for Vitiligo

Aggarwal P* and Aggarwal G

[1]Department of Dermatology, Kalinga Hospital, Bhubaneswar, India

[2]Department of Surgery, Kalinga Hospital, Bhubaneswar, India

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1. Clinical Image

Non culture melanocyte transplantation (NCMT) is a novel modification in the surgical management of vitiligo. Melanocytes are taken from a healthy skin area and are transferred as a cell suspension onto the depigmented patches. This procedure can be performed as an outpatient procedure within 1-3 hours. A large area can be treated in a single operative session with a small piece of donor area skin *viz.* 10cm^2 donor skin being sufficient to treat upto 100cm^2 vitiligo area [1,2].

Long term results suggest that NCMT is safe and effective, in particular for re-pigmenting stable and localised types of vitiligo, with repigmentation rates ranging from 90-100%, with results persisting for as long as 10 years of follow up (**Figure 1**). Loss of pigmentation has been reported only in cases of generalised vitiligo and not segmental vitiligo, piebaldism, halo nevi and nevus depigmentous [3, 4].

Thus it can be safely said that this socially stigmatous condition can be efficiently and permanently dealt with non culture melanocyte transplantation.

Figure 1: Images before and after NCMT

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***Corresponding Author (s):** Priyanka Aggarwal, Department of Dermatology, Kalinga Hospital, Bhubaneswar, India, E-mail: priyanka.sehgal85@yahoo.com*

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