



DERMATOLOGICAL SURGERY

## MEGASESSIONS OF MINI PUNCH GRAFTING IN VITILIGO PATCHES (>300SQCM) - RETROSPECTIVE SINGLE CENTRE STUDY

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**Background** - Minipunch Grafting(MPG) is an well established surgical treatment modality of localized vitiligo lesions. As per pubmed search on minipunch grafting(MPG), the maximum areas where MPG has been done range till 144sqcm.

**Objective** - Evaluate the efficacy of minipunch grafting surgery of vitiligo in cases with extensive vitiligo extending to areas greater than 300sqcm

**Materials&Methods** - 65 patients (35 females, 30 males) in the age group of 16-62 years with stable vitiligo (no new lesions or extension of extensive lesions in the past 12 months) of areas ranging from 300sqcm to 1500sqcm were included. Mini punch grafts of size of either 1mm or 1.5 mm diameter were taken from the thigh area and transferred in the vitiliginous areas. The grafts were placed at distances of approximately 5 mm from each other. The number of grafts transferred ranged from 650 – 3000. In 14 patients with areas greater than 1000 sqcm the procedure was staged over two days one week apart. All other procedure were done in a single day.

**Results** - Uniform perigraft pigmentation was observed by 1-1½ months and 90% area was covered within 3-4 months. The cases were followed up for six months.. Side effects observed in few of the patients in the recipient site included cobblestoning, polka dot appearance, variegated appearance, perigraft halo and graft rejection. Fair to excellent results were observed in 80% of the cases.

**Conclusion** - Tissue grafting method of MPG is a viable alternative to Non Cultured Melanocyte –Keratinocyte Transplant(NCKMT) in resource poor settings, where the availability of enzymes and incubators required for NCKMT may be an issue, even in extensive large areas of Vitiligo, as demonstrated by our study. The long time required for the surgery may be the only limiting factor.

