



DERMATOLOGICAL SURGERY

# NEW TECHNIQUES IN TISSUE GRAFTING FOR VITILIGO: SMASH GRAFTING AND ITS MODIFICATIONS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF RESISTANT STABLE VITILIGO

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**Introduction:** The biggest advantage of cellular grafting over tissue grafting procedures is that a relatively much larger surface area of the recipient skin can be treated with a smaller sized graft.

**Objective:** This report describes smash grafting and some modifications in smash grafting technique by which the procedure can be converted into a procedure almost similar to a non-culture epidermal cell suspension technique with an easier application and a uniform spread of the graft material.

**Material and Methods:** Fifty patients of resistant stable vitiligo were treated with smash grafting and among these, 22 patients were treated with the modified smash grafting procedure. Two modifications were done in the standard procedure of smash grafting; first modification was to mix the smashed graft with hydroxymethyl-propyl cellulose (HPMC) to improve the consistency and convert the grafted material into a uniform suspension. Second modification was to apply the graft suspension by using a spatula or a pipette under dry collagen dressing.

**Results:** Most of the patients (more than 80%) could achieve excellent results with smash grafting. More importantly, the repigmentation achieved was uniform and perigraft halo was seen in only 4 cases. With the addition of HPMC, the consistency and appearance of the 'smashed suspension' became almost similar to NCES and it was easy to apply the suspension uniformly on the recipient area. Of the 22 patients treated with the modified procedure, about 77% (17/22) patients were able to achieve at least 75% repigmentation. No adverse effects were noted with the use of hyaluronic acid or hydroxymethyl-propyl cellulose on the dermabraded recipient skin.

**Conclusions:** Smash grafting and its modifications can serve as excellent alternatives to cellular grafting techniques in resource poor settings.

