



GLOBAL SKIN HEALTH

## VITILIGO OR SCC - WHAT IS MORE MENTAL THREATENING?

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**Background:** The plight of an Indian household female, 24 years old, mother of two, came concerned for a Vitiligo patch on the leg. However, she also had a Hypertrophic nodule, 2\*3 cm, oval-shaped, on the medial side of the same leg with 1\*1.5 cm ulceration in the centre, since the age of 10 years, which wasn't her concern at all. She never consulted any doctor for her nodular lesion, not knowing that the lesion could have been a potential site for Squamous Cell Carcinoma (on a plaque of hypertrophic lichen planus)

**Observation:** Ours being a tertiary centre, we explained to her the need for a biopsy of the nodule, to make sure that Squamous Cell Carcinoma is ruled out and further relevant treatment can be done. Luckily, the histopathology report came to be Prurigo Nodularis, and we Doctors were relieved. We gave her oral antibiotics and later intralesional steroid injections. After a few months, her Prurigo nodule substantially decreased in size. She is now symptomatically better, while her main concern, the vitiligo patch, has also repigmented partially.

**Key message:** We as Dermatologists of India, still observe the struggle faced by the patients and their families with the stigmas associated with Vitiligo, which other than its cosmetic concern, is completely harmless. The awareness regarding Vitiligo in Indian population is very poor and with Doctors and Government support via campaigns and camps, Indian Dermatologists can ameliorate this dismal state.

