



LASERS

COMBINATION OF 308-NM EXCIMER LASER WITH TOPICAL TACROLIMUS FOR THE TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD VITILIGO

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Object: To investigate the effect of treating childhood vitiligo by 308-nm excimer laser combined with topical 0.03% tacrolimus.

Methods: A total of 49 patients with symmetrical lesion bilaterally distributed on the face, trunk, and hand were enrolled in this right/left comparative, single-blinded trial, they were randomly divided into two groups, group A: lesions received excimer laser twice per week with combination of 0.03% tacrolimus cream twice daily; group B: lesions received excimer laser twice per week only. All subjects were evaluated after the 15th and 30th laser treatment Sessions.

Result: No statistically significant difference of efficacy between the two groups at the rate of repigmentation appeared after the 15th treatment session ($Z = 3.272$, $p = 0.059$), while the significant difference appeared after the 30th treatment sessions ($Z = 4.379$, $p = 0.001$), at the end of 30 weeks of treatment, 71% of patients from group A achieved Grade 3 or 4 repigmentation compared with 50% in group B. Severe adverse reactions were not observed in the experiment.

Conclusion: that 308-nm is effective, safe, with minimal side-effects for childhood vitiligo. The combination of topical tacrolimus and excimer laser is statistically better than excimer laser alone.

