



PAEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

## SEGMENTAL VITILIGO IN CHILDREN: LOOKING BEYOND THE DESCRIPTIONS

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**Background:** Segmental vitiligo (SV) is a unique subset of vitiligo behaving differently from generalized type (GV). Unfortunately this has been discussed inadequately, especially among children.

**Aims:** To describe the characteristics of SV in children and to compare the clinical and hematological details of SV with generalized type.

**Methodology:** An OPD based comparative study was conducted among the children <18 years, presenting to OPD during September 2015 to August 2017, with features suggestive of SV or GV. They were evaluated clinically and through necessary investigations.

**Results:** Out of 111 children enrolled, 32 (28.8%) were segmental. Most common dermatomes involved were trigeminal and thoracic (40.6% cases each), followed by cervical (12.5%) and lumbar dermatomes (6.25%). Boys were less in SV group (0.6:1 v/s 1.02:1). Mean age of onset was higher among SV (9.2 v/s 8.8 years). Trunk was the most common site of disease onset among SV (34%) while the same was on face among GV. Koebnerization and leukotrichia was present in 3.1% and 90.3% patients respectively among SV group, while 16.5% and 12.7% patients among GV group had the same. No significant differences were detected in hematological studies between the groups.

**Conclusion:** Our study has failed to demonstrate remarkable features in clinical and hematological aspects, to distinguish the two types. In light of many recent studies hypothesizing similar factors of pathogenesis in both, we suggest long term follow-up in children with SV to understand the behavior of the disease.

