PIGMENTATION

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE EFFICACY OF AUTOGRAFTS FUE ON VITILIGO: A COST-EFFECTIVE METHOD IN DEVELOPING COUNTRY

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Background: Vitiligo is a chronic pigmentary disorder. Till now, there is no satisfactory treatment. Dark colored people having cosmetic and psychological problems due to it. There is also hope for new method of autograft hair follicular units in vitiligo areas.

Methods: A total of 18 patients with minimum five stable vitiligo sites, M:F= 1:1, age more than 25 years, attending in our dermatology OPD were included. It was prospective, open comparative study. The five sites for male where categorized viz. Hair follicle autografts donor from Occipital, axillary, chest and upper pubic area. The last site was reserved for Autologous noncultured epidermal cell suspension(ECS). Similarly, in female four sites donor viz. hair follicle autograft from occipital, axillary and upper pubic area. The last site reserved for Autologous noncultured ECS). Graft from donor to recipient areas where placed like hair transplant method, no photoprotection was suggested. Response to treatment was evaluated on the basis of degree of repigmentation; final evaluation of area of involvement was done after completion of 3 months with visual-analogue, photography and dermoscopy findings.

Results: Due to using of 0.9 mm blade there was no significant scar on donor areas. Repigmentation was early seen in recipient site of used pubic-hair than other sites. ECS repigmenation having slow repigmentation rate than hair autograft sites. Later on, donor hair follicles were changed to whitish and fall down in two to three months.

Conclusion: Cosmetically the hair autograft is cost effective and new methodology for adult group vitiligo patients. A minimally invasive technique simple device can help uniform repigmentation without needs of any chemical or laboratory which is very easy and less time consuming for a trained dermato-surgeon. Larger sample size is needed for its efficacy.