

PIGMENTATION

NON-CULTURED EPIDERMAL CELL SUSPENSION (NCES) TRANSPLANTATION IN SEGMENTAL VITILIGO – LONG TERM FOLLOW- UP.

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Introduction: Non-cultured epidermal Cell Suspension (NCES) technique is an effective surgical option in the management of segmental vitiligo as reservoir of melanocytes are lacking. Long term follow ups are essential in establishing the safety and efficacy of such treatments.

Aim of the study was to evaluate the efficacy and side effects of Non-cultured Epidermal Cell Suspension (NECS) after a 10 year follow-up in segmental vitiligo.

Patients and Methods: All cases of Segmental Vitiligo treated with NECS from January 2002 to January 2006 were included in the study. Donor skin of one-tenth the size of recipient area was trypsinised and incubated at 37C for 60 minutes. Basal cell enriched suspension was made and transplanted over dermabraded recipient area.

Of the 158 patients treated during the period; 117 patients were reviewed after one year and 10 years after undergoing of surgery. Repigmentation was graded as excellent with 95% to 100% pigmentation, good with 65% to 94%, fair with 25% to 64%, and poor with 0% to 24% of the treated area.

Results: Out of 158 patients only 117 patients, 48 males and 69 females completed the study. 96 patients (82.05%) showed excellent response, 11 (9.40%) showed good, 5(4.27%) fair, and 5(4.27%) poor response at the end of 10 years.

Reactivation of vitiligo was seen in 11 cases (9.40%). The reactivation of vitiligo corresponded to pubertal spurt in 3 cases, pregnancy in 2 cases. Commonest side effect encountered was the perilesional halo which was persisting in 21 (17.95%) of cases. Hypertrophic scarring was seen in one case.

Conclusion: NCES technique is a safe and effective treatment in segmental vitiligo. As the chance of reactivation in segmental vitiligo is minimal, this is an excellent management option. However the perilesional halo persisted in a significant number of cases at 10 year follow-up.