PIGMENTATION

THE EFFECT OF PRECEDING FRACTIONAL CO2 LASER EITHER WITH TACROLIMUS, CALCIPOTRIOL OR WITH NB-UVB IN THE TREATMENT OF STABLE GENERALIZED VITILIGO

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Introduction: Fractional carbon dioxide (CO2) laser does not ablate the entire epidermis, decreasing the risk of potential side effects and minimizes duration of healing. Microscopic treatment zones made by fractional CO2 laser promote the penetration of externally applied agent, enabling improvement of efficacy.

Objective: To compare the efficacy and safety of combining ablative fractional Co2 laser either with Tacrolimus, Calcipotriol or with NB-UVB in treatment of stable non segmental vitiligo

Material and methods: 30 patients with stable non segmental vitiligo were treated on with 10600nm fractional CO2 laser every 2 weeks for 6 months. Patients were divided in to three groups according to their post laser adjuvant therapy either tacrolimus ointment (group A), Calcipotriol ointment (Group B) or NB-UVB (Group C). The efficacy of treatments were assessed using repigmentation percent and VASI score by two blind dermatologists. Patient's satisfaction were assessed.

Results:26 patient completed the study, good to excellent responses have been obtained in 6 lesions (26.8%) in group A, 2 lesions in group B(10%) and 12 lesions(60%) in group C. the mean percent of repigmentation was 39.1%,32.4% and 50.25% for groups A,B and C respectively. Patients' satisfaction score was significantly higher for the lesions in group C than both groups A and B. Lesions On the legs and forearms showed a higher response than other sites. No serious side-effects were noted.

Conclusion: Adding fractional CO2 laser treatment to NB-UVB phototherapy improves the repigmentation rate of vitiliginous lesions. This technique may be offered to vitiligo patients who are unresponsive to other treatments.