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# Vitiligo Guidelines

*Mauro Picardo*

San Gallicano Dermatologic Institute, IRCCS

Rome, Italy

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epidemiology

definition

classification

assessment

pathogenesis

therapy

PubMed vitiligo treatment

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[See 101 articles about Mltf \(VITILIGO\) gene function](#)

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### Results: 1 to 20 of 2374

- ☐ [Modern vitiligo genetics sheds new light on an ancient disease.](#)
  1. Spritz RA.  
J Dermatol. 2013 May;40(5):310-8. doi: 10.1111/1346-8138.12147.  
PMID: 23668538 [PubMed - in process]
- ☐ [Melanocytes transplantation in patients with vitiligo using needling micrografting technique.](#)
  2. Sharquie KE, Noaimi AA, Al-Mударis HA.  
J Drugs Dermatol. 2013 May 1;12(5):e74-8.  
PMID: 23652963 [PubMed - in process]
- ☐ [Inflammatory Mediators are Inhibited by a Taurine Metabolite in CpG Oligodeoxynucleotide and IFN-γ Activated Macrophage Cell Line.](#)
  3. Kim BS, Spinner DS, Kascak RJ, Park SY, Cho IS, Schuller-Levis G, Park E.  
J Drugs Dermatol. 2013 May 1;12(5):551-7.  
PMID: 23652950 [PubMed - in process]
- ☐ [The therapeutic effects of a topical tretinoin and corticosteroid combination for vitiligo: a placebo-controlled, paired-comparison, left-right study.](#)
  4. Kwon HB, Choi Y, Kim HJ, Lee AY.  
J Drugs Dermatol. 2013 Apr 1;12(4):E63-e67.  
PMID: 23652908 [PubMed - in process]
- ☐ [Reversible Cardiomyopathy Associated with Autoimmune Polyendocrine Syndrome Type II.](#)
  5. Karavelioglu Y, Baran A, Karapinar H, Kükükdurmaz Z, Yilmaz A.  
Intern Med. 2013;52(9):981-5. Epub 2012 Mar 1.  
PMID: 23648718 [PubMed - in process] **Free Article**
- ☐ [Basic evidence for epidermal H2O2/ONOO--mediated oxidation/nitration in segmental vitiligo is supported by repigmentation of skin and eyelashes after reduction of epidermal H2O2 with topical NB-UVB-activated pseudocatalase PC-KUS.](#)
  6. Schallreuter KU, Salem MA, Holtz S, Panske A.

Poor outcomes sharing  
Poor criteria (diagnosis and effectiveness) sharing  
Variable duration treatment  
Home-made trial design



Fig 1. The relationship between the clinical type of vitiligo and the remaining melanocytes (\*printed asterisks in skin diagrams) from the follicular and epidermal reservoir.

Repigmentation and melanocyte reservoir: different vitiligo?

How to define and measure disease?

How to compare effectiveness?

## Broadband ultraviolet B vs. psoralen ultraviolet A in the treatment of vitiligo: a randomized controlled trial

M. El Mofty, M. Bosseila, H. M. Mashaly, H. Gawdat and H. Makaly

Phototherapy Unit, Dermatology Department, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt

Clinical and Experimental Dermatology (2013) 0, pp1–6

doi:10.1111/ced.12099

Journal of Dermatological Treatment, 2013; Early Online: 1–4  
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ISSN: 0954-6634 print/1471-1753 online  
DOI: 10.3109/09546634.2013.777381

informa  
healthcare

### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Comparison of efficacy of narrow band UVB therapies with UVB alone, in combination with calcipotriol, and with betamethasone and calcipotriol in vitiligo

Necmettin Akdeniz<sup>1</sup>, Ibrahim Halil Yavuz<sup>2</sup>, Serap Gunes Bilgili<sup>3</sup>, Goknur Ozaydin Yavuz<sup>2</sup> & Omer Calka<sup>3</sup>



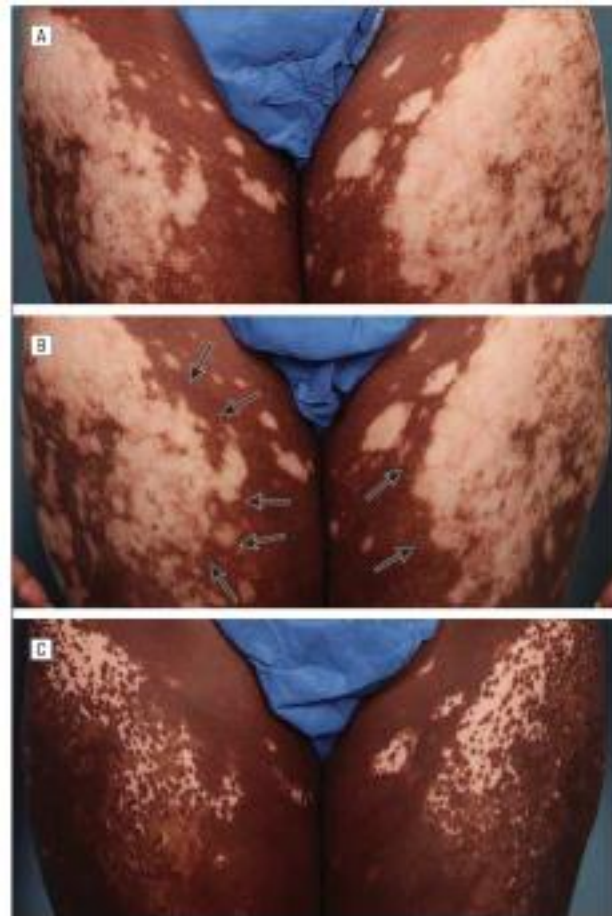
Figure 1. (A) The patient before treatment with betamethasone plus calcipotriol plus narrow-band UVB therapies. (B) The patient after treatment with betamethasone plus calcipotriol plus narrow-band UVB therapies.

## ONLINE FIRST

# The Efficacy of Afamelanotide and Narrowband UV-B Phototherapy for Repigmentation of Vitiligo

Pearl E. Grimes, MD; Iltefat Hamzavi, MD; Mark Lebwohl, MD;  
Jean Paul Ortonne, MD; Henry W. Lim, MD

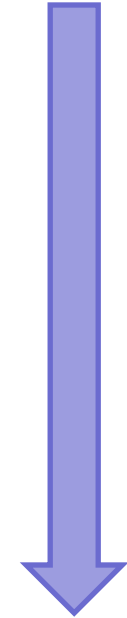
*JAMA Dermatol.* 2013;149(1):68-73.  
Published online October 15, 2012.  
doi:10.1001/2013.jamadermatol.386



# DEPIGMENTATION



## CLINICAL PRACTICE



## ETIOLOGIC APPROACH

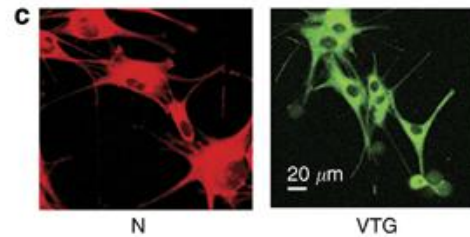
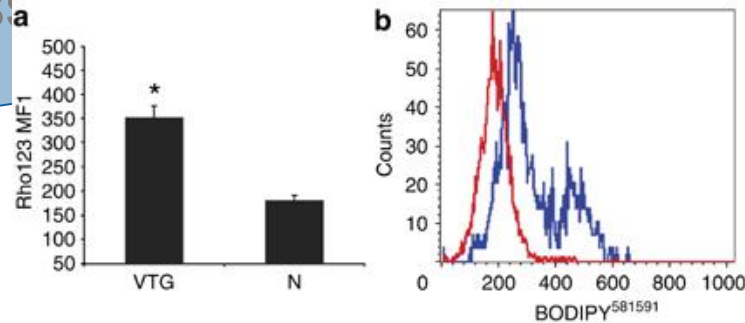
degenerative  
process

immune  
process

toxic  
damage

detachment

metabolic  
defect



## DEGENERATION





# EU EXPERTS DISCUSSION & IDEAS SHARING







[Courtesy of Vitiligo International](#)



# VEFT Authors

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Taieb, A. Alomar, M. Böhm, M.L. Dell'Anna,  
A.dePase, V. Eleftheriadou, K. Ezzedine, Y.  
Gauthier, D. Gawkrödger, N. van Geel, G. Leone,  
T. Jouary, S. Moretti, TL. Nieuweboer-Krobotova,  
M.J. Olsson, T. Passeron, D. Parsad, A. Tanew, W.  
van derVeen, M. Whitton, A. Wolkerstorfer,  
M. Picardo.

# Aims

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- *What is already known about this topic?* Vitiligo is a disease lacking definitive and completely effective therapies. Phototherapy and combined treatments are the most effective treatments.
- *What is the goal of the treatment in vitiligo?* Therapy should stop the progression of the lesions and provide complete or almost complete repigmentation to be satisfactory for the patient. The results should be maintained over time.
- *What does this study add?* The criteria for treatment have been critically reviewed. Evidence-based recommendations (S1) for the treatment of vitiligo have been made. A proposal for clinical evaluation, treatment and follow-up has been outlined.

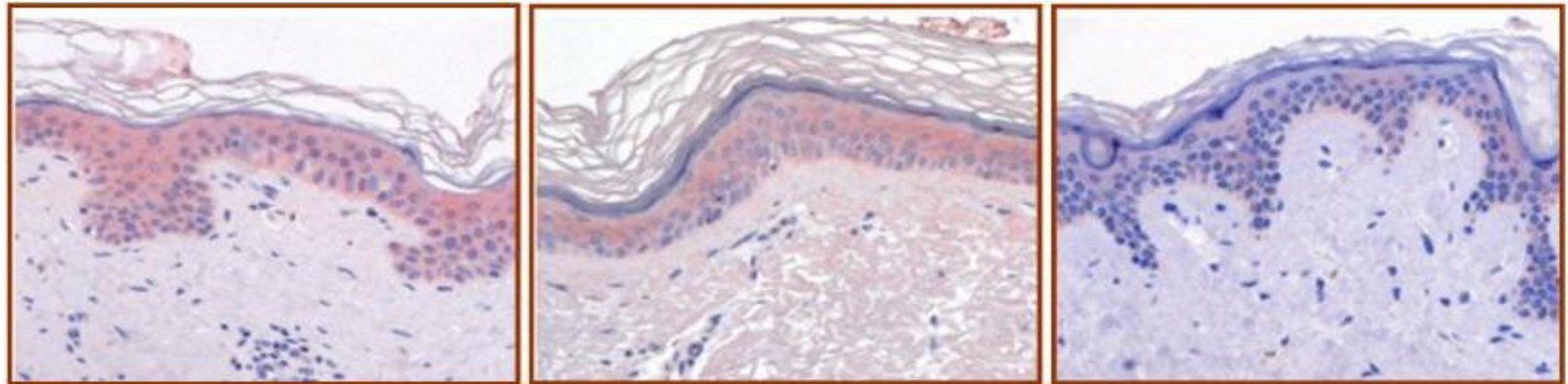
# infiammazione: IL1 $\beta$ e NALP1

Lesional/perilesional skin

Lesional skin

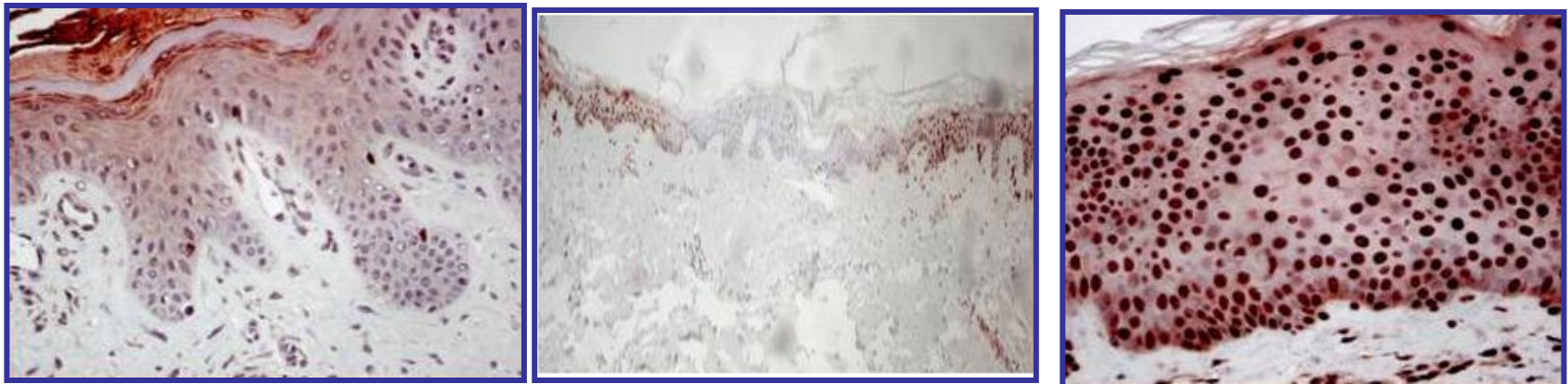
Non lesional skin

IL1 $\beta$



IL1 $\beta$  appeared to be expressed more in samples overlapping the border of the lesion and in perilesional and lesional samples than in non lesional vitiligo skin.

NALP1





# 1. Topical corticosteroids

- Limited, extra-facial involvement-potent TCS, once daily for 3 months or 15 days/month for 6 months
- First and safest choice-potent TCS rather than super potent
- If systemic absorption-consider mometasone furoate or methylprednisolone aceponate
- For facial lesions- consider topical calcineurin inhibitors rather than TCS



Fig. 3.2.1.1 Patient treated with betamethasone: before (up) and after (down) the therapy

## 2. Calcineurin inhibitors



- For new and actively spreading lesions and face/neck areas
- Twice daily, initially for 6 months, for both adults and children
- Safety profile is better concerning risk of skin atrophy
- During the treatment- moderate but daily sun exposure
- If effective consider prolonged treatment (↑12 months)



# NB-UVB and targeted phototherapies

- Total body NB UVB for NSV- arrest and repigment vitiligo
- Targeted phototherapies for localized vitiligo, recent onset & childhood vitiligo
- Maximum cycle duration- 1 year for adults and 6 months for children. One year interruption between cycles
- Stop treatment: if no results in 3 months or if ↓ 25% repigmentation in 6 months
- Maintenance treatment-not recommended. Regular follow- ups necessary



# PUVA and photochemotherapy

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- Oral PUVA-second line therapy in adults
- 12 to 24 months therapy
- Topical PUVA-very low dosage psoralens creams

## 4. Combination treatments (1/3)

- Topical steroids and phototherapy
- For difficult to treat areas such as bony prominences
- Highly potent topical steroids once a day (3 weeks out of 4) for the 3 first months of phototherapy



## 4. Combination treatments (2/3)

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Topical calcineurin inhibitors and phototherapy

- Effective and provides better results than the two treatments alone
- Should be used only in controlled or experimental settings due to ? carcinogenicity
- Use of adequate photoprotection due to the lack of data on long term safety (or not) of combination of TCI and UV

## 4. Combination treatments (3/3)

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Vitamin D analogues and phototherapy

- Not recommended

Phototherapy and other treatment

- Phototherapy+oral antioxidants-possibly beneficial

Phototherapy after surgery

- NB-UVB or PUVA should be used for 3-4 weeks after skin surgery

## 5. Oral steroids/other immunosuppressants (1/2)

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### Oral Mini Pulse

- Stable vitiligo-not useful
- Fast spreading vitiligo- weekend OMP (2.5 mg/day) of dexamethasone before phototherapy (based on author's experience)
- Optimal duration of OMP to stop vitiligo progression is 3-6 months



## 5. Other immunosuppressants and biologics

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- Cyclophosphamide, Cyclosporine & Anti-TNF- $\alpha$   
Not recommended due to lack of data and for the possible side effects

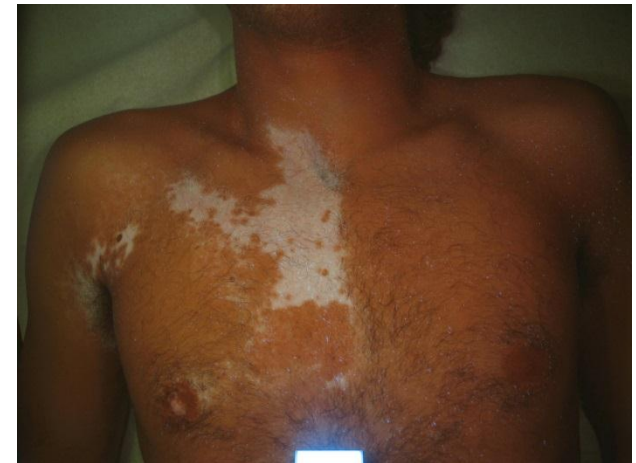
## 6. Other systemic interventions: antioxidants

- Vitamin E, vitamin C, ubiquinone, lipoic acid, Polypodium Leucotomos, Ginkgo biloba etc.
- Antioxidant supplementation could be useful during UV therapy and reactivation phases



# 7. Surgery

- For NSV- patients with stable disease and negative Koebner phenomenon
- Risk of relapse
- For SV and other localized forms-after failure of medical interventions



# 8. Other interventions (1/3)

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Camouflage

Self-tanners

- Lasts 3-5 days, stain free, waterproof
- Sea water makes them fade away quickly

Highly pigmented cover creams

- easy to apply, fragrance free, waterproof
- Fixing spray
- applied and removed daily with caution to avoid Koebner's phenomenon

Dermal pigmentation, cosmetic tattoos

- for lips, nipples especially in black people
- in other areas to be used with caution

## 8. Other interventions (2/3)

for extensive disfiguring vitiligo & after exploring other therapies

Depigmentation with:

- Monobenzone
- Q-switched ruby laser alone or in combination with methoxyphenol,
- Cryotherapy



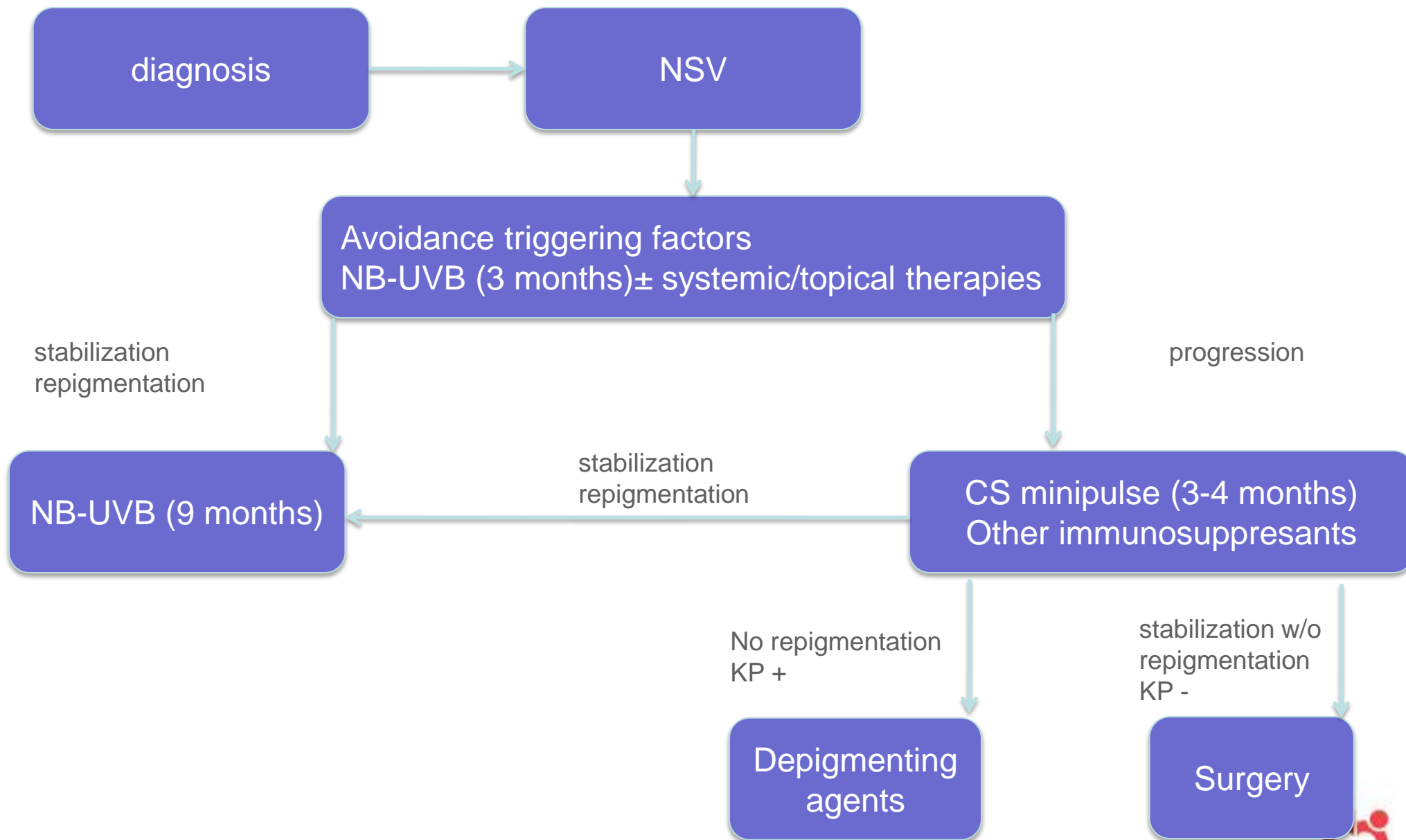
# 8. Other interventions (3/3)

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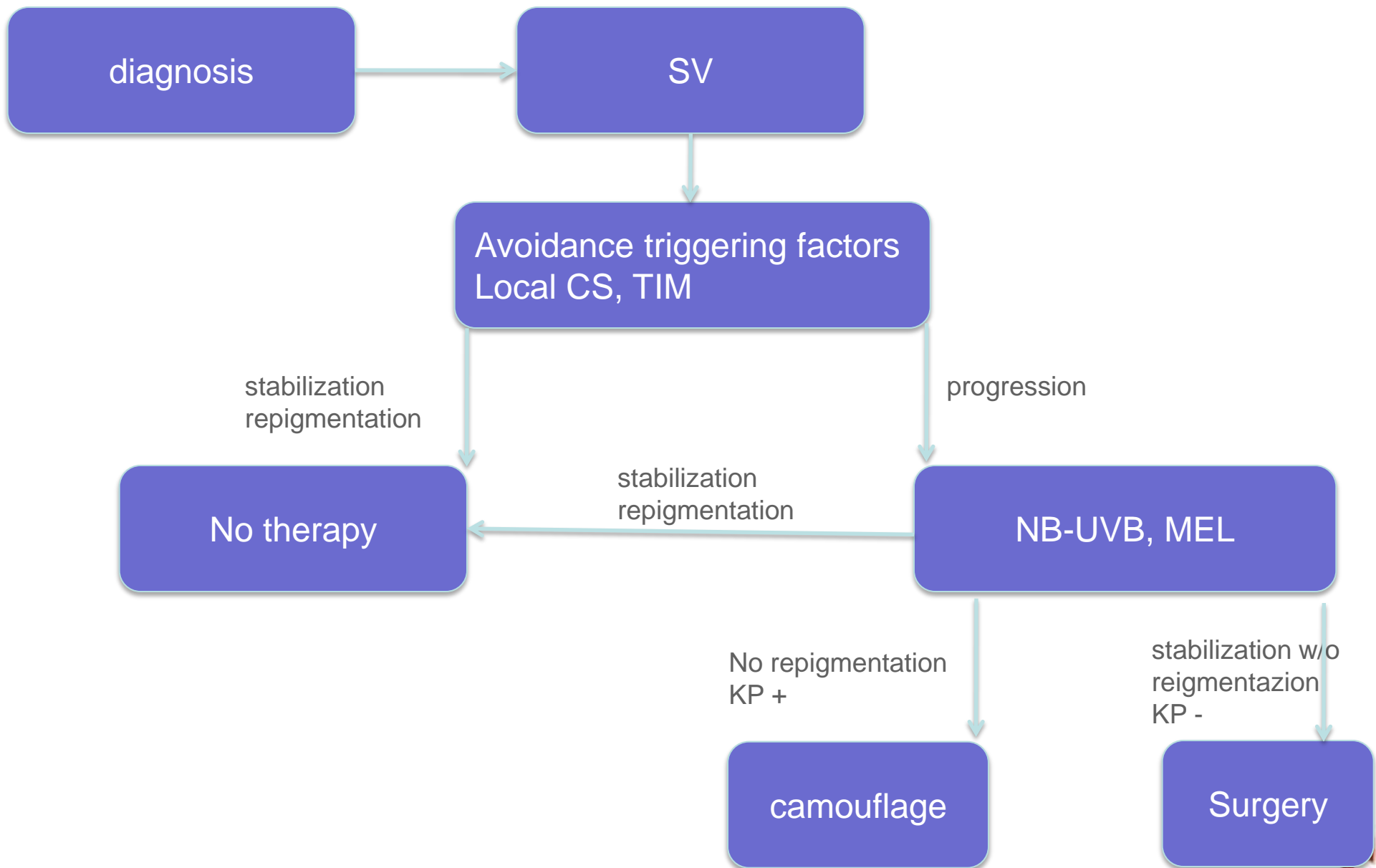
## Psychological interventions

- Subjective assessment- DLQI, QoL questionnaire or Patient-defined outcome questionnaire for vitiligo
- Psychological support and community interventions may be needed
- Adolescents and dark skinned individuals- often stigmatised





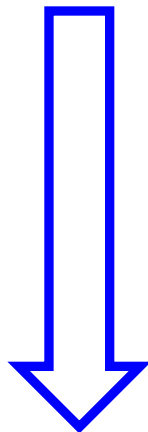
## Algorithm for NSV



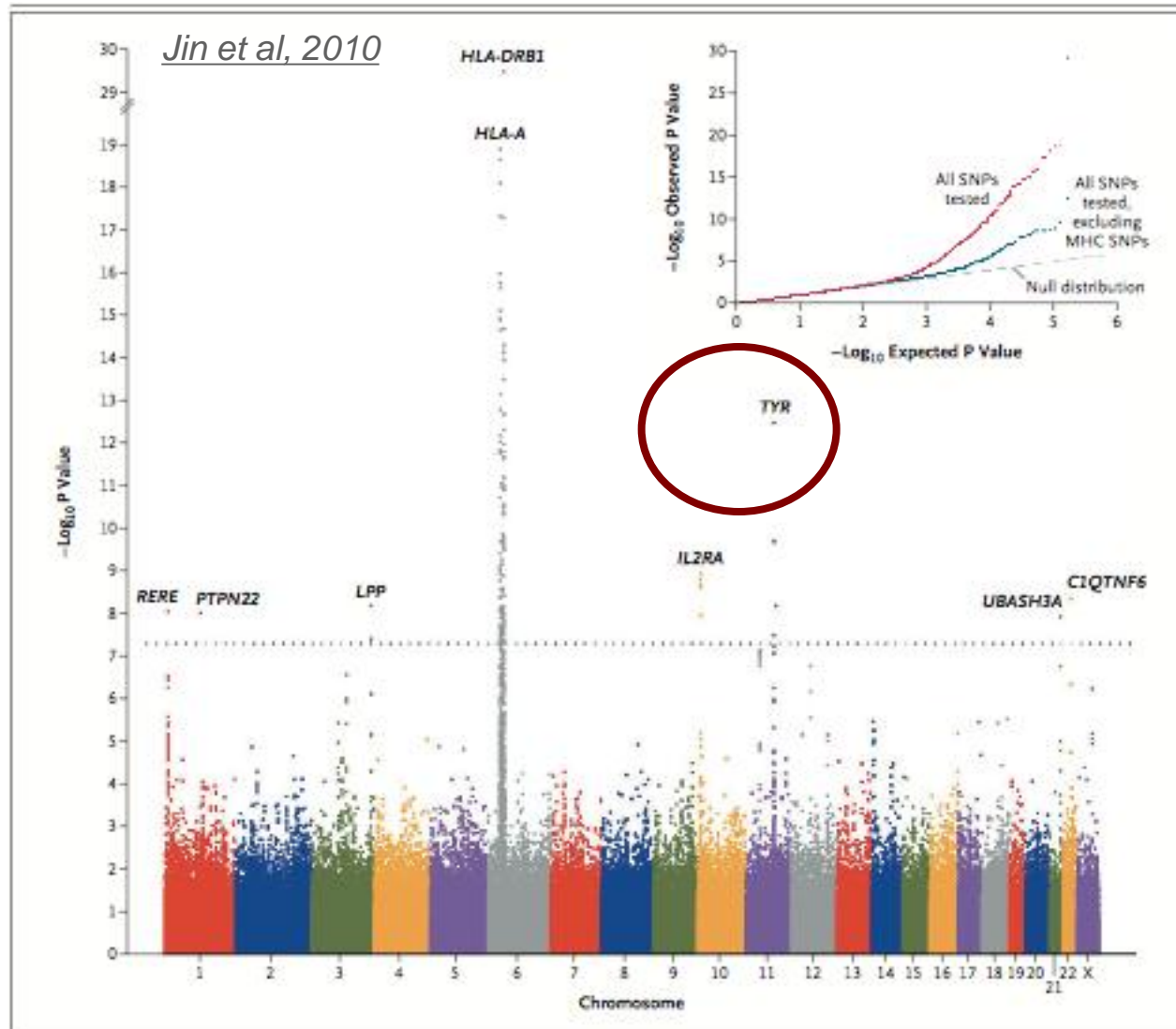
Algorithm for SV

# The genetic background for immune and redox deregulation

Genomewide association analysis  
indicate 10 independent  
SNP: in MHC loci (6p21.3), in  
seven regions related to  
autoimmune diseases, and in  
11q14.3 (**TYR**)

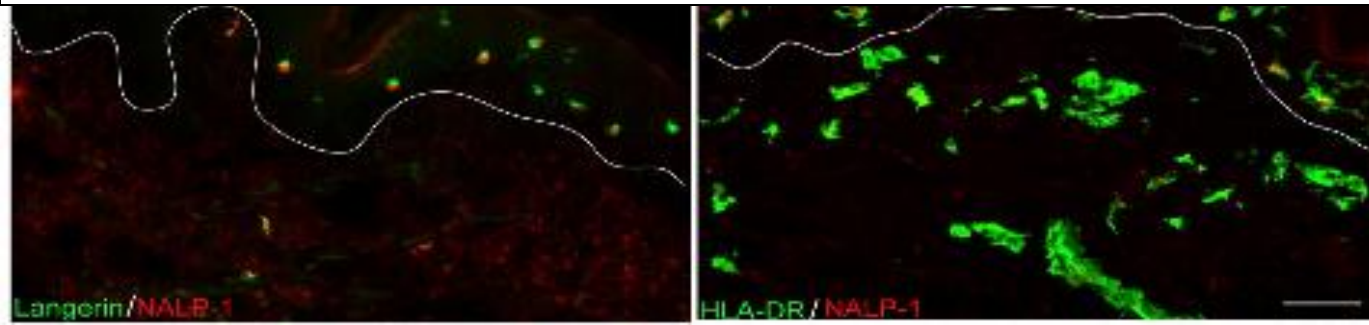
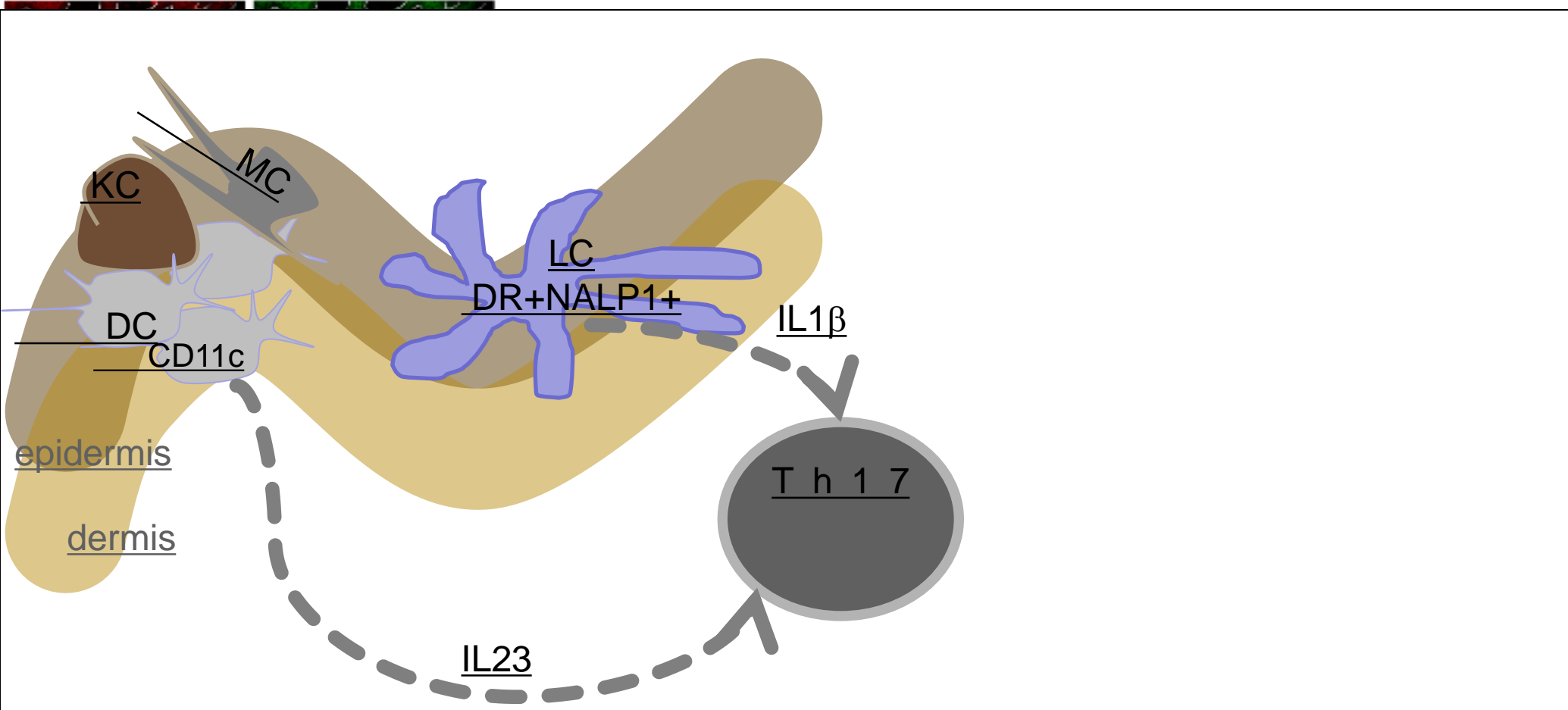


Variant thermosensitive, aberrantly glycosylated, retained in ER



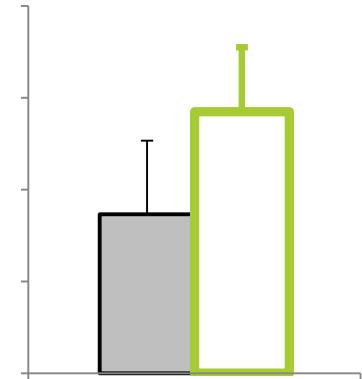
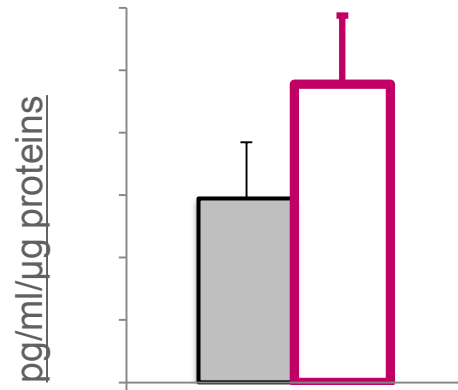
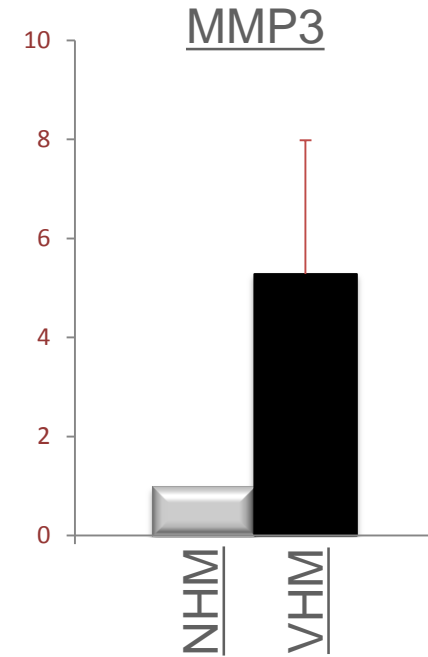
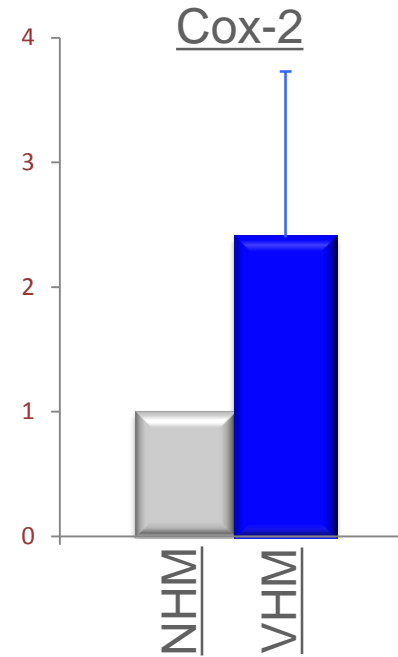
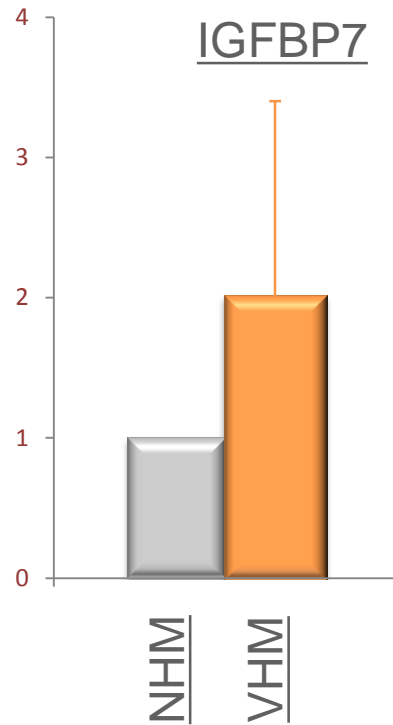
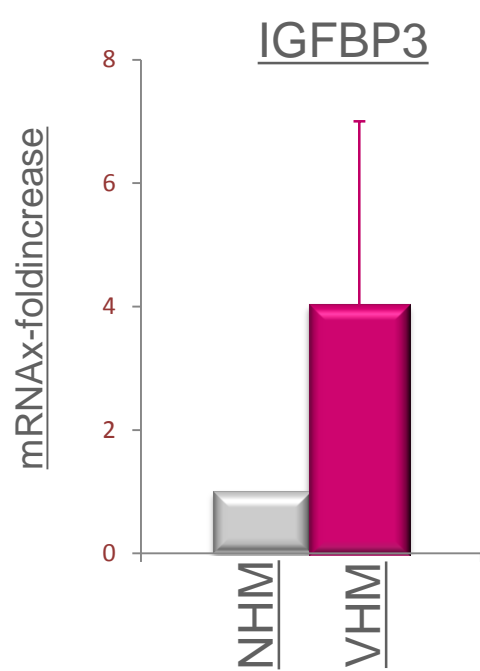
# Th17 and Dendritic Cells

Wang, 2001

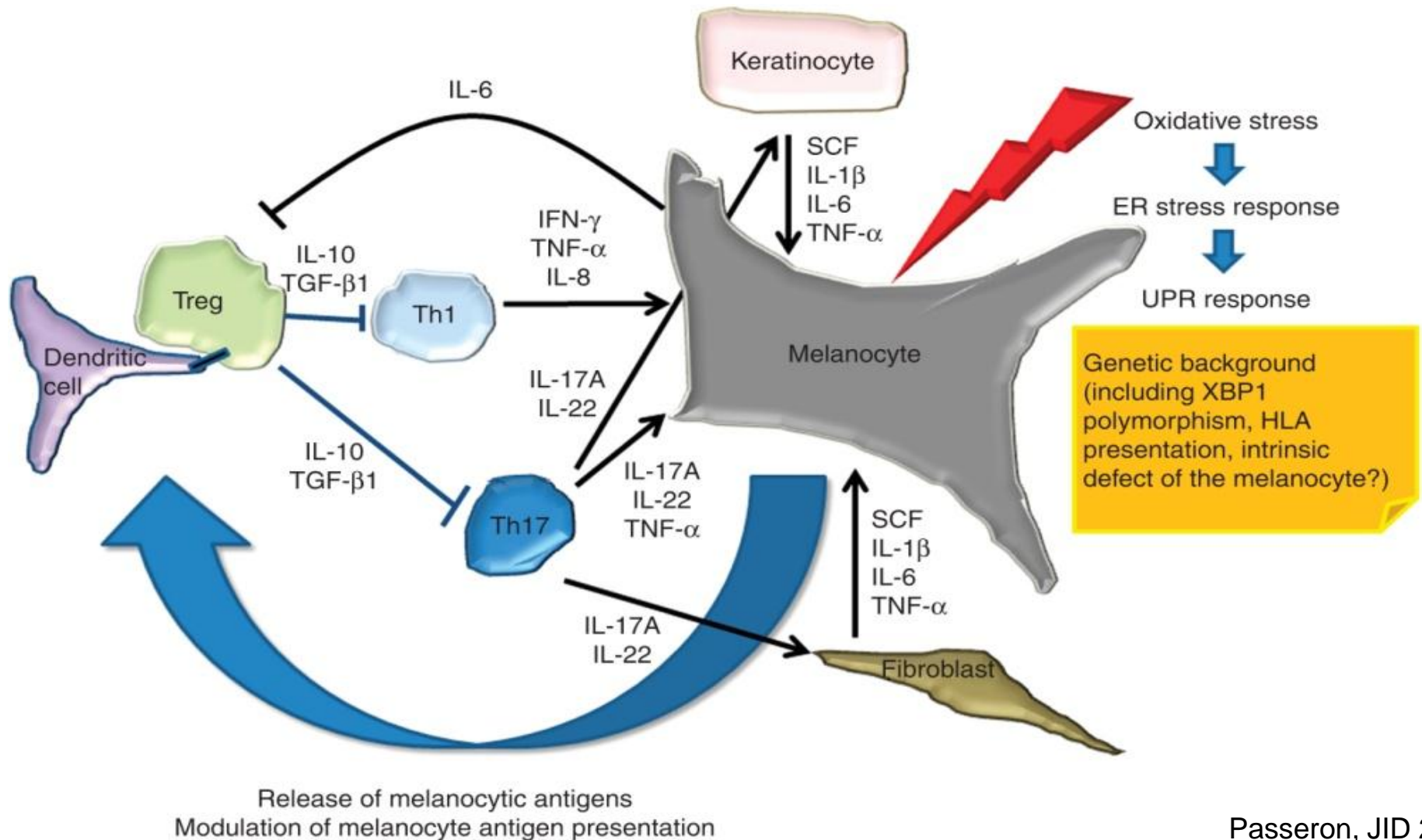


LC in half lower epidermis

# SASP factors

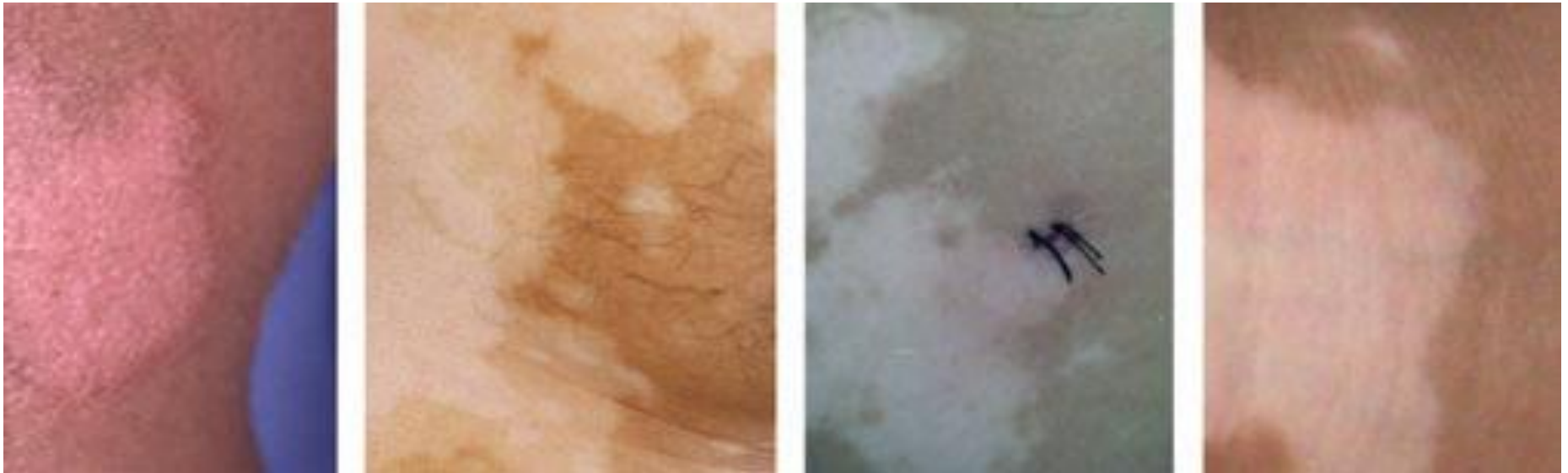


# How we link oxidative stress and inflammation?





# Clinical type of VTG lesions

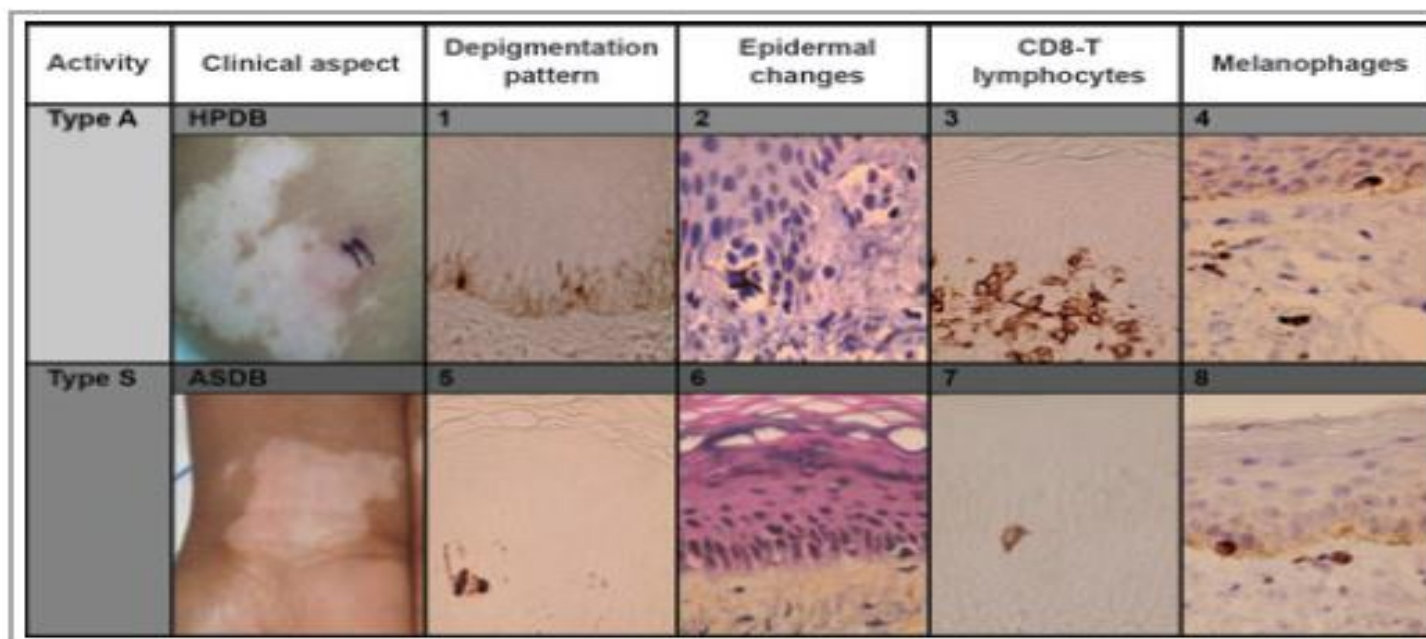


- (a) Inflammatory lesion with raised borders.
- (b) Trichrome vitiligo.
- (c) Hypomelanotic lesion with poorly defined borders.
- (d) Amelanotic lesion with sharply demarcated borders.

**Table 4** The relationship between the clinical aspect and activity of vitiligo lesions

Clinical aspect	Activity of the lesion						
	Actively spreading			Stable			P value
Hypomelanotic lesion with poorly defined borders H.P.D.B N = 28	Yes	n = 26	92·85%	Yes	n = 2	7·15%	<0·001
	No	n = 2	7·15%	No	n = 26	92·85%	
Amelanotic lesion with sharply demarcated borders A.S.D.B N = 20	Yes	n = 3	15%	Yes	n = 17	85%	<0·001
	No	n = 17	85%	No	n = 3	15%	

N, number of patients; n = number of lesions studied.

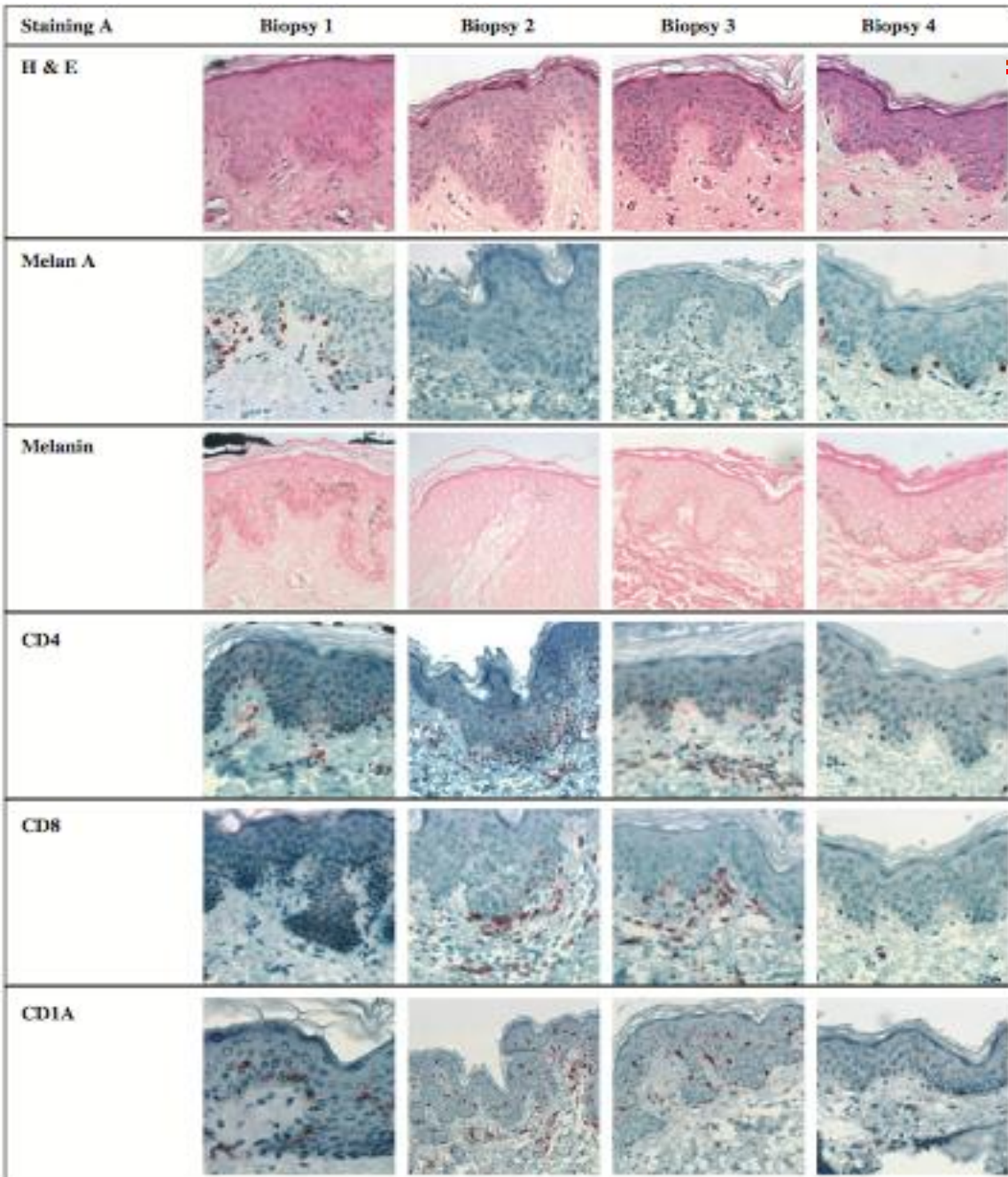


prelesional

Early lesional

Non lesional

# SV and inflammation



Reduced Treg (FOXP3)  
In lesional vs non lesional

High melanocyte specific T

Halo nevi occurrence as  
basis for the Ag exposure  
and immune damage

(Histology relevance)



## Irradiance, but not fluence, plays a crucial role in UVB-induced immature pigment cell development: new insights for efficient UVB phototherapy.

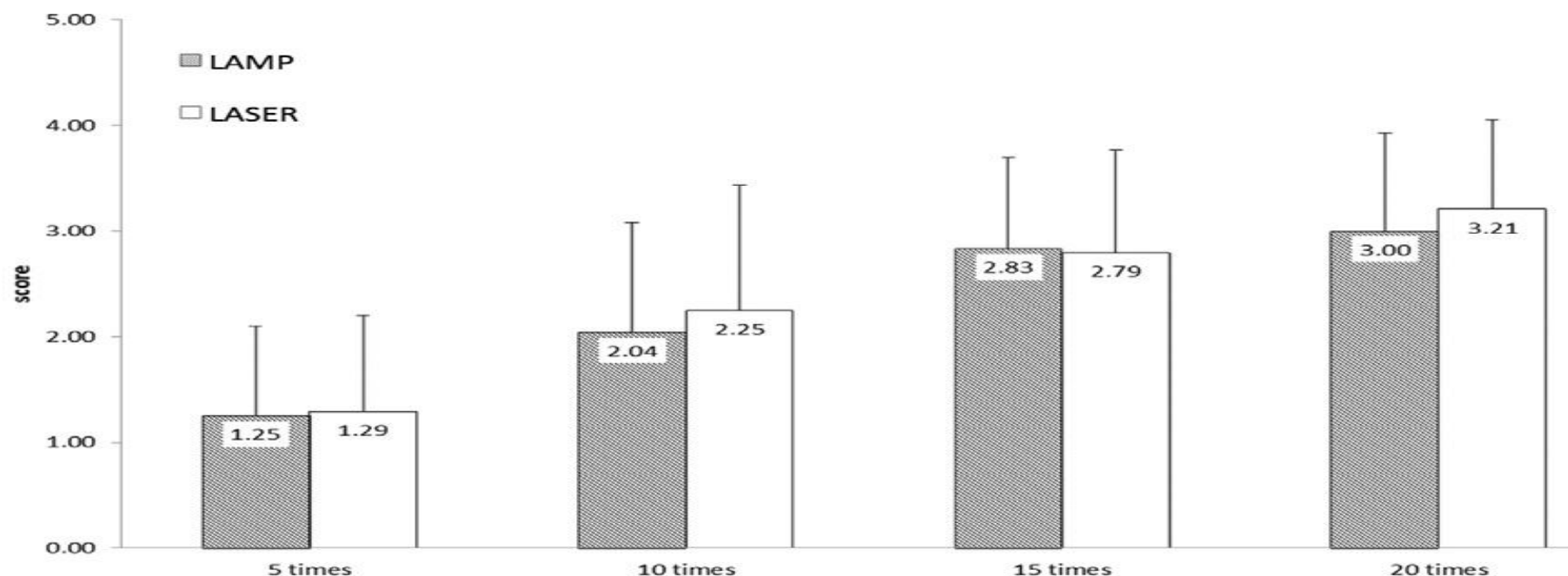
Lan CC, Yu HS, Lu JH, Wu CS, Lai HC.

Department of Dermatology, Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital, Kaohsiung, Taiwan; Department of Dermatology, College of Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan; Department of Dermatology, Kaohsiung Municipal Ta-Tung Hospital, Kaohsiung Medical University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

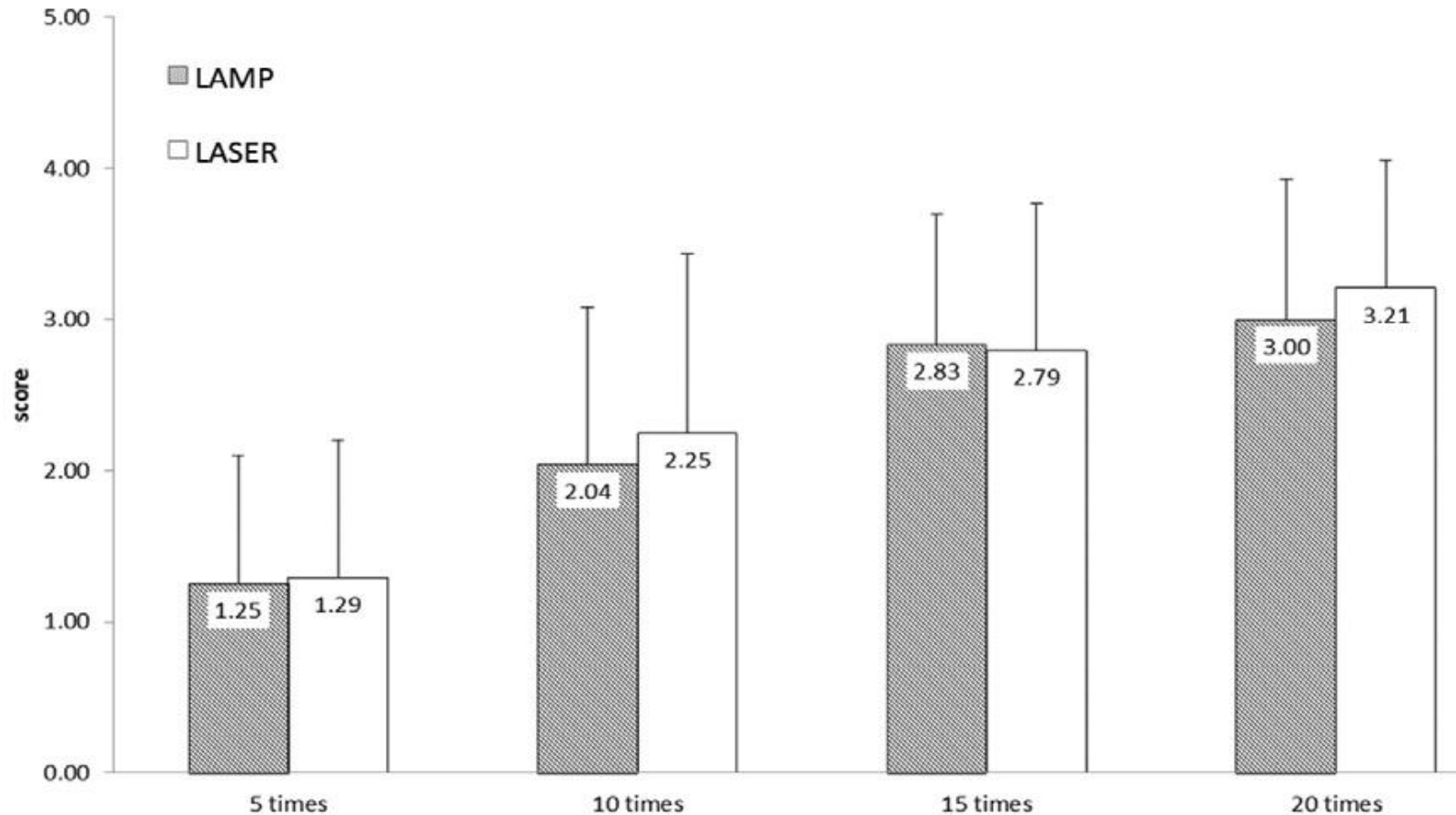
### Abstract

Light exposure modulates development of living organisms. In the field of medicine, light has frequently been used for regenerative purposes. Excimer light (308 nm) has demonstrated superior efficacy in treating **vitiligo**, a condition requiring development of melanoblasts and a model for studying nerve cell regeneration, as compared to narrow-band ultraviolet B (NBUVB; 311 nm). Using mouse-derived melanoblast cells to examine the pro-differentiation effects of these two light sources, we demonstrated that at equivalent fluence, excimer light induces melanoblast differentiation, while NBUVB failed to do so. Mechanistically, activation of aryl hydrocarbon receptor pathway and nuclear translocation of epidermal growth factor receptor are involved in pro-differentiation effects of excimer light. Reduction in irradiance by filter abrogated the effects of excimer light in melanoblasts, even when equivalent fluence was delivered by the same light source. As ultraviolet B (UVB) irradiation is closely associated pigment cell development, future therapy employing UVB for pigmentation purposes should incorporate irradiance as a crucial specification.

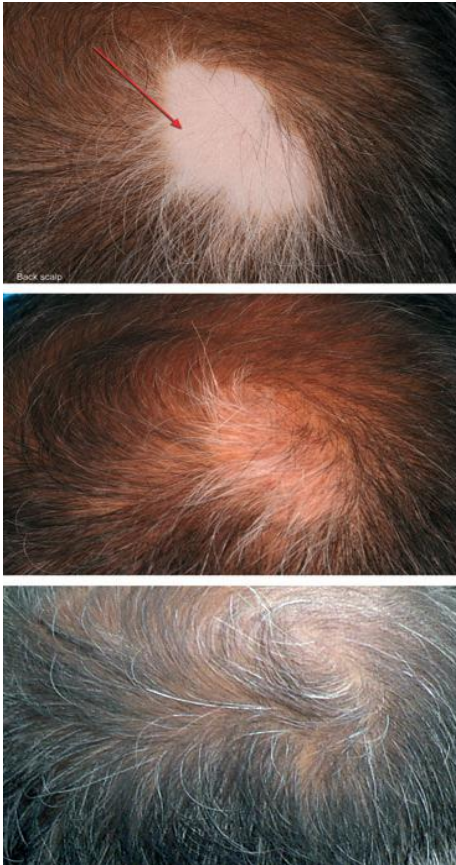
© 2013 John Wiley & Sons A/S.



# Comparison between eximer laser and light



# Leucotrichia repigmentation with noncultured cellular grafting



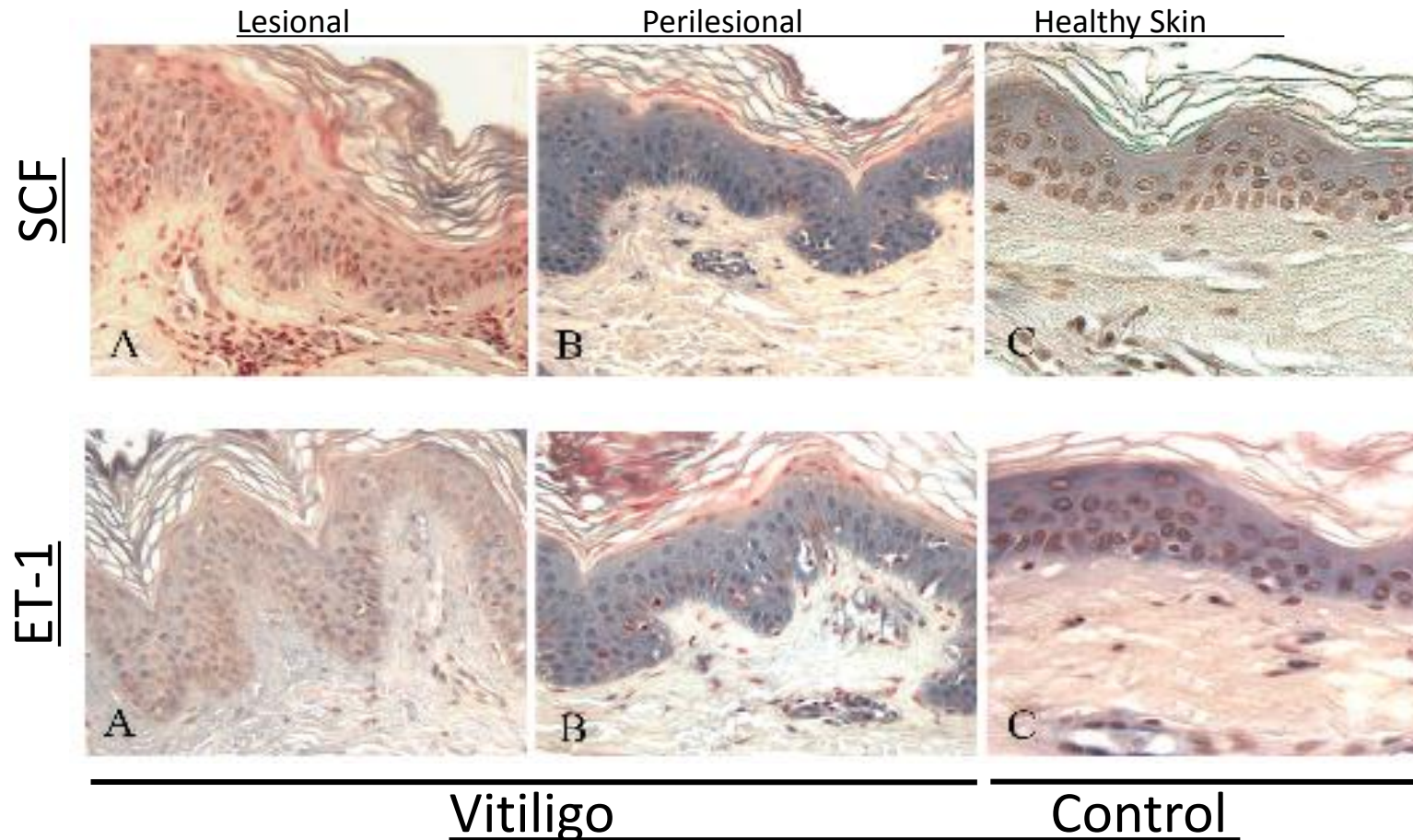
, E.Y. Gan et al. 2011





# Microenvironment alteration contributes to melanocyte dysfunction in vitiligo

The melanocyte-stimulating cytokines SCF and ET-1 show a lower expression in vitiligo skin





# Laser plus NBUVB



Co2



Erbium

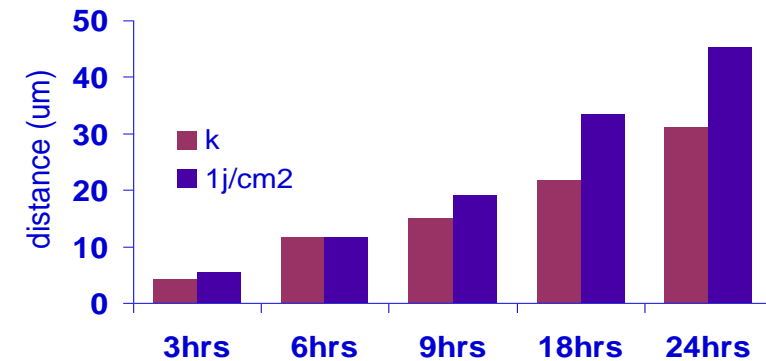
# He-neon

Growth factors release  
Signal transduction induction  
ATP production  
KER/FIBRO proliferation  
MEL migration  
Melanin production

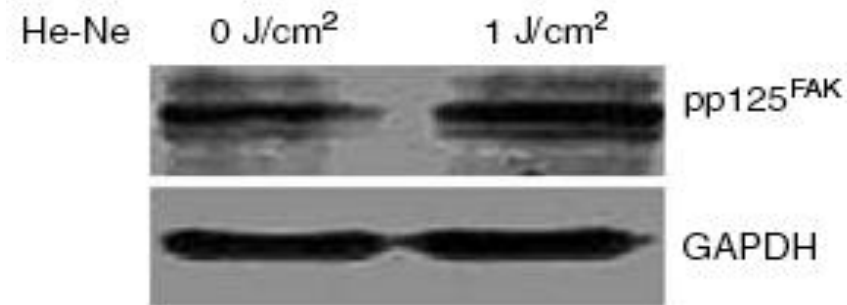
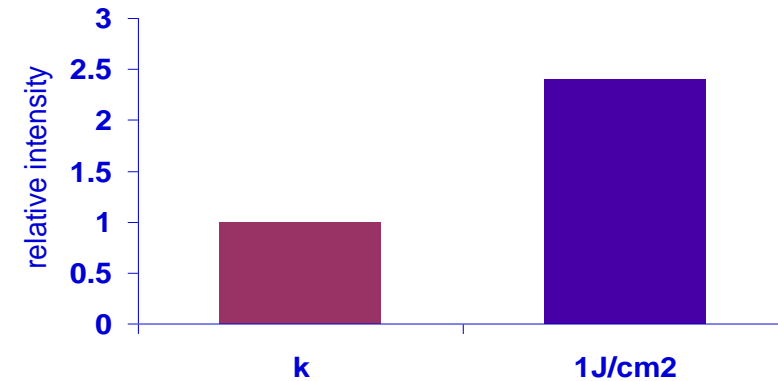


repigmentation

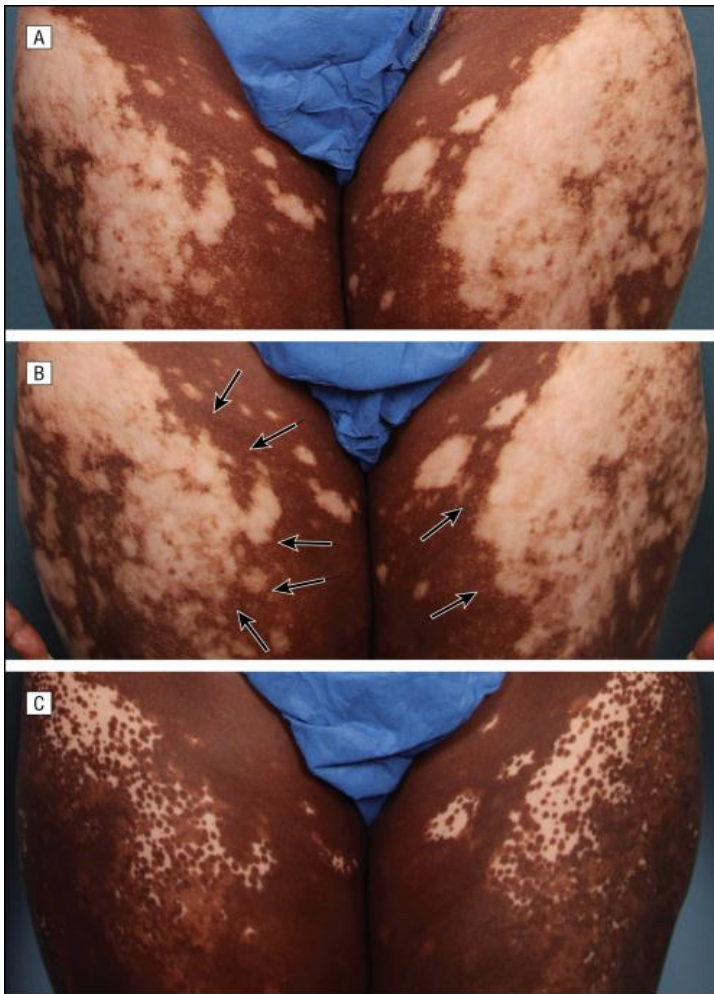
## migration



## FAK expression



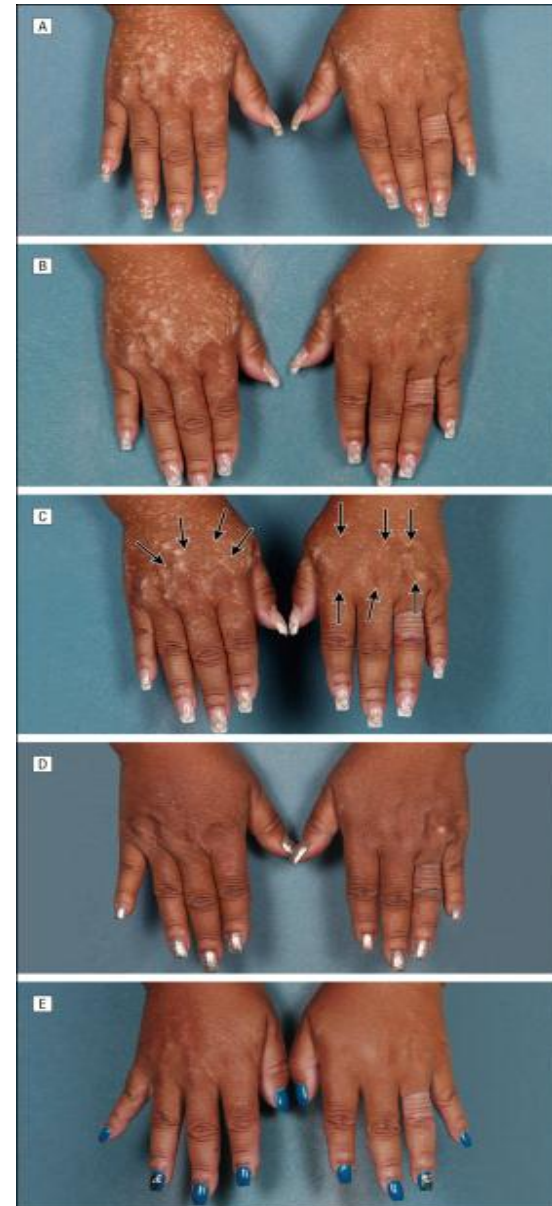
# Afamelanotide plus NB-UVB



14 days of treatment

JAMA Dermatol.2013;149(1):68-73

persistence of repigmentation  
after not implant for 5 months



# Types and Therapies

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Arrest of the progression

ROTATIONAL THERAPY  
Induction of proliferation and migration of  
differentiated melanocytes  
SEQUENTIAL THERAPY  
COMBINATORY THERAPY

Improve of melanocyte survival





**SPRUSD**

**Setting Priorities & Reducing  
Uncertainties for People with  
Skin Disease**

# International consensus on core outcomes set for vitiligo research

Dr Viktoria Eleftheriadou MD PhD

Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology

University of Nottingham

28/02/2013



4 to 7 Sep 2014  
Singapore  
[www.ipcc2014.org](http://www.ipcc2014.org)



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