



The vitiligo project is part of an independent research programme commissioned by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) looking at Setting Priorities and Reducing Uncertainties for the Prevention and Treatment of Skin Disease (SPRUSD). This project is

being coordinated at the centre of Evidence Based Dermatology, University of Nottingham.

The published studies of treatments for vitiligo do not provide enough good evidence of their efficacy as the Cochrane review clearly demonstrated. Around 68 treatments have been evaluated in trials included in the review. However, due to the small number of participants and other methodological reasons evaluation was difficult and the results were not conclusive.

The aim of our project, the vitiligo Priority Setting Partnership (PSP), was to identify the Top 10 treatment uncertainties from the various potential and currently available treatments for vitiligo and to submit a grant application for a large scale randomised controlled trial on at least one of these treatments.

As you might remember, the vitiligo PSP had several stages. The last stage, the Final Prioritisation Workshop, is now completed and resulted in a list of Top 10 research priorities for the treatment of vitiligo. This workshop was a full day event at the British Associations of Dermatologists House in London, on the 25th of March 2010. The Final Prioritisation Workshop turned out to be a success. Forty people attended the workshop, almost half of them were patients and half healthcare professionals, including Dermatologists, Specialists nurses, General Practitioners, researchers, camouflage professionals.

We are really delighted to reveal the Top 10 vitiligo treatment uncertainties:

1. How effective are **systemic immunosuppressants** in treating vitiligo?
2. How much do **psychological interventions** help people with vitiligo?
3. Which treatment is more effective for vitiligo: **light therapy or calcineurin inhibitors** (e.g. tacrolimus, pimecrolimus)?
4. How effective is **UVB light therapy when combined with creams or ointments** in treating vitiligo?
5. What role might **gene therapy** play in the treatment of vitiligo?
6. How effective are **hormones or hormone related substances that stimulate pigment cells** (MSH analogues, afamelanotide) in treating vitiligo?
7. Which treatment is more effective for vitiligo: **calcineurin inhibitors** or **steroid creams/ointments**?
8. Which treatment is more effective for vitiligo: **steroid creams/ointments** or **light therapy**?
9. How effective is the **addition of psychological interventions** to patients using **cosmetic camouflage** for improving their quality of life?
10. How effective is **pseudocatalase cream** (combined with brief exposure to UVB light) in treating vitiligo?

In addition, two treatment uncertainties were suggested as “ones to watch”, as these interventions were still in an early investigative stage.

11. How effective is piperine (black pepper) cream in treating vitiligo?
12. What role might stem cell therapy play in treating vitiligo?

Our team have made efforts to ensure that the results of the vitiligo PSP are widely disseminated to both clinical and research community. Dr Viktoria Eleftheriadou has given oral presentations on the Top 10 treatment uncertainties and the results of vitiligo PSP in September 2010 at the **16th Meeting of the European Society of Pigment Cell research, Cambridge, UK** and at the **First Vitiligo World Congress, Milan, Italy**. Mrs Maxine Whitton also spoke about the project at the **Patient Day meeting** at the **Vitiligo World Congress**.

Also, five research vignettes based on the Top 10 uncertainties have been submitted to the HTA NIHR (Health Technology Assessment), an independent funding body, and are currently being considered for possible funding of a trial on treatment for vitiligo.

If you are interested in finding out more details about the vitiligo PSP, the article is published in the British Journal of Dermatology (*Eleftheriadou, V. et al. "Future research*

into the treatment of vitiligo: where should our priorities lie? Results of the vitiligo priority setting partnership". British Journal of Dermatology, no. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2133.2010.10160.x), which is widely available online to all internet users (*free of charge*).



Pic.1 Final Prioritisation Workshop. BAD House, London

Next steps: We are currently working towards the development of 2 trial protocols based on the identified Top 10 uncertainties. In making our decision, which of the ten topics to choose, we had to take into account several factors including feasibility, willingness of clinicians to recruit patients, convenience for patients and other methodological factors for clinical trials.

The topics our team is currently working on are the followings:

1. *Effectiveness and safety of hand held NB-UVB devices at home for the treatment of limited or early vitiligo*
2. *The effectiveness of topical corticosteroids compared to topical calcineurin inhibitors*

Of course, it will take time for us to complete all the preliminary work needed to complete a trial protocol and we are **not currently recruiting patients**, however if you are interested in taking part please keep an eye on our website www.vitiligostudy.org.uk. *We will keep you updated!*

And Finally...

Our team would like to say a big thank you to all the people who contributed to this process. We have received great support both patients and clinicians throughout the entire project. Your contribution has been crucial to its success.

Vitiligo Study contact details:



Vitiligo Study Coordinator: Dr Viktoria Eleftheriadou

Emails: viktoria.eleftheriadou@nottingham.ac.uk or vitiligostudy@nottingham.ac.uk

Telephone and Fax numbers: 01158468633 (tel) ; 01158468618 (fax)