Special considerations in children with vitiligo
February 17th, 2018

Pearl Grimes, MD
Director, Vitiligo & Pigmentation Institute Of Southern California
Clinical Professor of Dermatology, UCLA
www.pearlgrimesmd.com

Quality of Life: Vitiligo is indeed a psychologically devastating disease. Children comprise 25% of patients. When this disorder begins in childhood, it is often associated with profound emotional trauma for affected children. Negative experiences related to the disease in childhood are often associated with long standing social adjustment issues.

Epidemiology: There are no differences in the pathogenesis of childhood and late onset disease; however unique aspects of childhood disease include:
- higher prevalence of segmental vitiligo
- positive family history
- atopic dermatitis.

Associated conditions: While associated autoimmune diseases are more common in adults with vitiligo, multiple studies have documented an increased frequency of thyroid disorders in children with vitiligo.

Treatment: Excellent therapeutic outcomes are often achieved in children. Therapies for childhood vitiligo incorporate modalities for stabilization and repigmentation.
- oral and topical corticosteroids
- calcineurin inhibitors
- NB-UVB phototherapy.

Other Special Considerations in children
- Increased prevalence of segmental vitiligo
- Enhanced response to treatment modalities compared to adults
REFERENCES:


Mahajan, V. K., Vashist, S., Chauhan, P. S., Mehta, K., Sharma, V., & Sharma, A. (2019). Clinico-Epidemiological Profile of Patients with Vitiligo: A Retrospective Study from a Tertiary Care Center of North India. Indian dermatology online journal, 10(1), 38-44.
