

Table 6: In all patients with vitiligo, what is the efficacy of applying tacrolimus or pimecrolimus vs placebo or an active treatment in terms of condition progression, area reduction and QoL score? DJ Gawkrödger										
Author / year	Bias	Study type	Quality rating	Popln- no. in each arm	Outcomes measured	Effect size	CI or p value	Follow up length	Scoring comparison	Adverse effects
Boone et al, 2007	Open study	Proof of concept study	2+	26; children >6, and adults with symmetrical vitiligo	Repigmentation-head and neck lesions treated with topical 1% pimecrolimus X2/day for 6 months	Total repigmentation seen in 50% of cases	Not given?	6 months	?	?
Coskun et al Turkey 2005	Small numbers. No comment on interests	Left vs right comparison, side not randomised.	2+	Adults- 10, right vs left comparison	Clobetasol vs pimecrolimus. Not placebo controlled. Effects equal, best for trunk or extremities, started in 3 wk	50-100% repig found in 7/10 and 8/10 respectively	SPSS	8 weeks treatment only	Independent observers of photos of 2 selected lesions	No skin atrophy. Some burning
Kawalek et al. USA 2004.	Very small numbers. Authors declared no interests.	Left vs right, no comment on methods of randomisation. Compared Excimer plus topical tacrolimus or topical placebo	1-	8 adults started, 6 completed (6 evaluated). Age 31-51. 3M, 5F.	Repigmentation measured using photos	75% or more repigmentation found in 5/10 lesions treated with Excimer/tacrolimus combinations, vs 2/10 for Excimer/placebo combination	No stats applied. Not analysed on intention to treat basis	8-10 weeks	Scoring of photos by unspecified analysts	Erythema in all subjects. Blistering in 1/20 treated areas.
Passeron et al. France. 2004	Small numbers, UV sensitive areas treated favoured combination.	Randomised by lots, combination vs Excimer alone, (some untreated areas). UV sensitive vs non-UV sensitive (bony prominences)	1++	Age >12, 2M, 12 F. skin types II-IV. In 14 patients, 23 vitiligo lesions received combination, 20 received Excimer UV alone. Unspecific areas received no treatment	Repigmentation	For combination of topical tacrolimus and Excimer UV, 16/23 had 75% or more repigmentation compared to 4/20 with Excimer alone (P<0.001). For UV sensitive areas, 75% or more seen for 10/13 with combination and 0/13 for Excimer alone (p<0.001).	Chi squared, SPSS	Twice weekly Excimer treatment, twice daily topical tacrolimus to selected lesions over 12 weeks	Independent observers looked at before and after photos and score degree of repigmentation	Stinging in tacrolimus group. Moderate erythema at least once in all patients, bullous lesions in 4 of 43 lesions.
Lepe et al Mexico 2003	Poor effect. No 'financial' interest declared.	Left vs right comparison, side was randomised.	1+	Children (<18y) - 20, right vs left compare	Tacrolimus vs clobetasol. Not placebo controlled. Effects 41% vs 49%. Onset 3 wks for both Rx.	'Degree' of repig was 41% vs 49%	Paired t test, K test	8 weeks treatment	Independent observers of photos of 2 selected lesions	Skin atrophy in 5 with steroid, burning in 2 with tacrolimus