

Table 7: In all patients with vitiligo, what is the efficacy of applying p-(benzyloxy)phenol (hydroquinone monobenzyl ether) vs placebo or an active treatment in terms of reducing areas of pigmentation? 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
Kooyers & Westerhof, 2006		Review								
Nordlund et al, 2006		Review								
Bologna et al, 2001		Review								
Shaffrali & Gawkrödger, 2000		Review								
Njoo et al, 2000	Not blinded study	Cohort study: Comparison on Q switch ruby laser (QSRL) and 4-methoxy phenol (4MP). Type of vitiligo not stated but extensive.	2+	13 subjects used both, 3 used 4MP only	4MP produced total depigmentation in 11/16. Onset of depigmentation within 4-12 months. Of these 4 had recurrence of pigment after 2-36 months. Side effects, mild burning or itching. 4 of 5 non-responders to 4MP did depigment with QSRL. 9/13 treated with QSRL had total depigmentation. Onset was within 7-14 days after treatment. 4 had recurrence of pigment after 2-18 months. No side effects.		4MP- 69% CI 41-90; QSRL 69%, CI 39-91%	18 mo	4MP and QSRL	4MP- Side effects, mild burning or itching. QSRL none
Le Poole & Boissy, 1997		Review								
Antoniou & Katsambas, 1992		Guideline								
Kenney & Grimes, 1983		Review								
Mosher et al, 1977	Not blinded	Cohort study? Open study of MBEH	2+	18, type not stated but severely affected	8 achieved complete depigmentation after 10 months, 3 had 'dramatic' depigmentation, 3 had no results after 4 months use					Contact dermatitis in 1, irritation in others. Must be regarded as irreversible. Patient selection important