

Table 4: In all patients with vitiligo, what is the efficacy of applying betamethasone, clobetasol, flucinolone, fluticasone, or mometasone vs placebo or other active treatment in terms of condition progression, area reduction and QoL score? DJ Gawkrödger

Author	Bias	Study/ type	Quality rating	Popln- no. in each arm	Outcomes measured	Effect size	CI or p value	Follow up	Scoring method	Adverse effects
Kumaran et al India 2006	Selective recruitment	RCT. Selective recruitment. Little detail on methods none on interests	2+	Adults- 15, 16, 18- 4 did not complete	Betamethasone, vs calcipotriol, vs combination. Not placebo controlled. Result favoured combination. Onset 5-10 wk	2, 1, 4 all out of 15, for >50% repig	t test, & chi square test	12 weeks treatment plus further 8 weeks	Only 1 selected lesion scored-photo & trace	Skin atrophy noted
Coskun et al Turkey 2005	Small numbers	Left vs right comparison, side not randomised. No comment on interests	2+	Adults- 10, right vs left compare	Clobetasol vs pimecrolimus. Not placebo controlled. Effects equal, best for trunk or extremities, started in 3 wk	50-100% repig found in 7& 8 /10	SPSS	8 weeks treatment only	Independent observers of photos of 2 selected lesions	No skin atrophy. Some burning
Lepe et al Mexico 2003	Poor effect	Left vs right comparison, side was randomised. No 'financial' interest declared	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
Westerhof et al Holland 1999	Good study	Left vs right comparison, side randomised – not said how. No comment on interests but Glaxo author	1++	Adults, 135 at start, 96 evaluated. Exclude face & hands	Fluticasone (FP) alone vs FP + UVA vs UVA alone. Not placebo controlled. FP+ UVA x3 better than FP or UVA alone.	Mean repig at 9 mo 7.7% vs 24% vs 9.0% intent to Rx	Wilcoxon matched pairs	9 months treatment	One observer assessed photos of 2 selected lesions	No side effects reported except atrophy in 2 patients with UVA
Khalid et al Pakistan 1995	Poor on detail	Randomised – not said how. No comment on interests	1+	Children <12, 50 at start, 45 evaluated. Exclude segmental and mucosal	Clobetasol top x2/day vs 8-methoxy -psoralen ointment plus sun exposure x3/week (PUVAsol). Not placebo controlled.	Repig >50% seen 15/22 clob vs 4/23 PUV- Asol.	None	6 months treatment	Not stated – implies all vitiligo areas. Poor resp hands feet	2 patients stopped PUVAsol due to blistering. 6 developed atrophy with steroid
Clayton London 1977	Good considering	Right vs left comparison, randomised not stated how. Glaxo supplied drug	1+	Not stated. 25 subjects	Clobetasol cream vs placebo cream for 8 weeks.	Repig 15-25% in 10/23, >75% in 2/23 steroid, >75% 2/23 base	Sign test	4 months treatment	Not stated-implies all areas	All users of steroid got dermal atrophy
Kandil Kuwait 1974	Method questioned-Rx to both sides	Right vs left comparison, randomised not stated how. Glaxo supplied drug	1+	Not stated 19 subjects, 17 completed	Betamethasone lotion vs base	Repig in 25-90% in 3, 90-100% in 6 (of 19) for steroid Rx side vs 0 for placebo	none	4 months treatment	Not stated-implies all areas	Hyper-trichosis in 2, acne in 3 both with steroid