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Treatment of vitiligo with autologous epidermal transplantation (AET) in bangladesh using roof of suction blisters methodology

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Vitiligo is a disease characterized by spontaneous skin depigmentation due to loss of melanocytes. Autologous epidermal transplantation (AET) using suction blisters is a promising surgical method that aims to replenish lost melanocytes. Herein, we report our experience of autologous epidermal transplantation in Bangladesh using suction blister roofs from normally pigmented skin performed on thirty patients with active/stabilized vitiligo following failure to re-pigment skin using topical steroid and/or psoralen ultra violet A treatment. We also describe the technique of the procedure. We highlight three selected patient profiles, two with stable vitiligo and one with active vitiligo. Grafts were well tolerated in all three patients with satisfactory re-pigmentation in patients who had stable vitiligo, without any notable complications other than mild hyper pigmentation at the donor sites. In patients with active vitiligo, depigmentation of the graft and concomitant Koebner's phenomenon was observed after three weeks of the procedure. We conclude that autologous transplantation using the roof of suction blister is an effective and safe re-pigmenting procedure for stable, localized vitiligo.

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