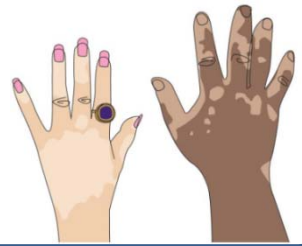


The HI-Light Vitiligo Trial

An information sheet for children aged 5 to 10

If patches of your skin (and sometimes hair) are a lighter colour than the rest of your skin, you might have what doctors call vitiligo.

Doctors do not know how to get rid of vitiligo. But, there may be some things that can bring back some colour to the white patches.



Doctors and nurses are investigating whether using a special ointment (which is like a smooth oily cream) or shining a special light on to your skin can help bring colour back to the white patches on your skin.

We are looking for adults and children like you to help in this investigation. We need 440 children and adults who have vitiligo to help us with our study.

Everybody who helps us in the trial gets a tube of ointment and a light to use at home.



The ointment you get to put on your skin will be either a normal ointment, or a special ointment, with medicine in it.

The light you get to shine on your skin will either be a normal light, or a light that shines special rays, called UVB rays.



The special ointment may help the best, or maybe the special light will. Maybe the special ointment and the special light used together will help the best. We do not know. If we try different types of ointments and lights, we might be able to find out-- and you can help us!

To see which treatment is most helpful, a computer will split everyone who signs up to the trial into 3 groups, making sure that the same number of people are in each group:



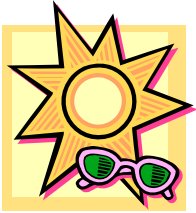
Group 1: Special Ointment and Normal Light

Group 2: Normal Ointment and Special Light

Group 3: Special Ointment and Special Light

We will compare these three groups at the end of the trial, to see if one of the treatments works best for vitiligo. Every group will receive at least one "special" treatment which may help vitiligo. So, no group is better than the other. Every group is really important to help us understand how to help people with vitiligo.

Before you start your new treatment, you will visit the hospital twice. A doctor will look at your skin, a nurse will ask you and your parent or carer questions about you and your vitiligo, and you will have pictures taken of your skin.



We will do a special test called an MED test, to see how your skin reacts to light. The nurse will shine a light on your skin for a few minutes.

You will come back to hospital one day later to have the nurse check what happened to your skin after that test.

The nurse will also show you and your parent or carer how to put the ointment on your patches of white skin, and how to use the lamp.



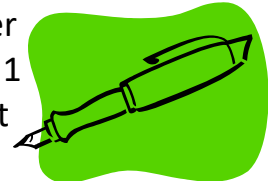
After your appointments you will get some ointment and a light in the post. Whether it is special ointment or normal ointment, or a special light or normal light, it all looks the same.

You won't know which group you are in, and the doctor and nurse won't know either. We keep the groups a secret so that we can be sure that the information we find out about the different treatments is fair.

Your parent or carer will help you use the ointment and the light on your skin at home for 9 months. You will also get a diary to write down how you use the ointment and the light.

You will visit the nurse at hospital 3 more times: once every 3 months for 9 months. At these appointments the nurse will see how you are getting on with your treatments. At the last appointment, you will have pictures taken of your skin again too.

After you visit the nurse for the last time, you and your parent or carer will fill in a form with some questions on it, every 3 months, for up to 1 year. That will be up to 4 forms in total. It will ask you questions about your skin and how you are getting on.



When everyone has finished the study, the doctors and nurses will look to see whether any of the treatments work better than the others.



If there is one that works better, then they can try to make sure that all children like you are able to use them. Grown-ups will use them too!

It's also really important to know if none of them work very well: we will then try to think of new ways to help.

If you would like to chat about this or have any questions then please ask your parent or carer, or one of the doctors or nurses.

