American Society for Photobiology

The ASP promotes original research in photobiology, facilitates integration of different disciplines in the study of photobiology, promotes dissemination of knowledge of photobiology, and provides information on photobiological aspects of national and international problems.

Photobiology News:

New Treatment for Vitiligo

Vitiligo, which affects about one percent of the U.S. population, is a skin condition characterized by irregular white patches on otherwise normally pigmented skin [1]. Its cause in unknown, but many researchers believe that autoimmunity is a factor. Therapeutic exposure narrow-band ultraviolet-B radiation is an important treatment option. In the recent issue of *Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology* ASP member Giovanni Leone (Istituto Dermatologico San Gallican, Rome) and colleagues reported their pilot studies of monochromatic (308 nm) excimer light (MEL) as treatment of vitiligo [2]. They concluded that MEL may be a more effective treatment that narrow-band ultraviolet-B radiation for treatment of vitiligo.

---

1. National Library of Medicine, 2002, Vitiligo [NLM Medical Encyclopedia]
2. Leone G, Iacovelli P, Paro Vidolin A, Picardo M, 2003, Monochromatic excimer light 308 nm in the treatment of vitiligo: a pilot study. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol* 17: 531-7. [PubMed]

ASP Business Office
P.O. Box 1897
Lawrence, KS 66044
Phone: 785-843-1235
ext. 216
Fax: 785-843-1287
phot@allenpress.com