

## **New Study Defines Severity Strata for Vitiligo Using Validated Physician Global Assessment Scores**

### **Key Takeaways:**

1. **Confirming Validity and Reliability of PGA:**
  - The study confirmed the construct validity and reliability of Physician Global Assessment (PGA) scales for assessing vitiligo activity (worsening) and repigmentation (improvement).
2. **Correlation Between Changes in Affected Skin Area and PGA Scores:**
  - A strong correlation was found between changes in affected body surface area (BSA) and PGA scores for activity and repigmentation.
3. **Defining Disease Severity:**
  - The study identified specific strata for assessing vitiligo severity using VESplus, VDAS15&60, and VDIS15&60, helping interpret numerical results of these scales.
4. **Refining Criteria for Worsening and Improvement:**
  - Small changes in BSA (>0.3%) correspond to mild worsening (PGA = 1), significant worsening (PGA = 3) is associated with a BSA increase of more than 27.71%, and severe worsening (PGA = 4-5) corresponds to a BSA increase of more than 128.75%.
  - For repigmentation, an improvement of more than 0% is classified as mild improvement, more than 4.87% as moderate improvement, and significant improvement (PGA = 5) corresponds to repigmentation of more than 36.88%.
5. **Study Limitations:**
  - The study was limited to a single center and primarily included patients with Fitzpatrick skin types II and III, with limited affected skin area. Age group differences among patients may also be a limitation.
6. **Practical Application:**
  - The identified strata can be used to interpret results of VESplus, VDAS15&60, and VDIS15&60 scales, aiding in treatment decisions for vitiligo.