

Elsevier mini-cases Dermatology

Vitiligo where areas of growing skin lose their colour leaving white patches on the skin, what is the pathogenesis?

- A) Congenital lack of pigmentation
- B) Increase in the number of melanocytes
- C) Autoimmune destruction of melanocytes
- D) Pigment loss due to steroid use
- E) Viral infection damaging epithelium

MCQ / ClinicalKey AnswerCard

Vitiligo is a common chronic autoimmune condition that causes melanocyte destruction and subsequent patchy depigmentation of the skin and hair

There are two main patterns of vitiligo:

- Nonsegmental vitiligo – the more common form, affecting the body randomly
- Segmental vitiligo - less common and remaining affecting segments at a time

Skin melanocytes produce melanin give the skin it's colour due to the melanin pigment. If there is a problem with melanin production, then the skin is de-pigmented, turning white



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