



Document:	Depigmentation Protocol
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Date:	February 10, 2016

Indications

- Widespread vitiligo involving over 50% of the total body surface area
- Patient understands that the loss of pigment is permanent and repigmentation is no longer possible
- Patient understands the need for life-long strict photo protection

Contraindications

- Pregnancy
- Patients hoping for future treatment of vitiligo should not undergo depigmentation
- Severe allergic contact dermatitis

Treatment protocol

- The treatment is in the form of a cream called Mononbenzyl ether of hydroquinone (MBEH) 20%
- First apply the cream to a small area on one arm for 1 week.
- The cream commonly caused a stinging sensation immediately after application that usually lasts for a few minutes. This is not an allergy to the medication.
- If there is no reaction on the arm after one week of use, the cream should be applied to the exposed areas of the face, hands, forearms, and feet.
- Start with once daily application for one week and then increase the frequency of application to twice daily if there is no reaction.
- The treated areas will gradually fade until the areas with pigment become completely white.
- After treating the exposed areas, the cream can be applied to other areas of the body because bleaching of distant areas can occur while treating the exposed areas.
- The duration of treatment can range from 1 to 2 years.
- Avoid treatment of the eyelids and the area surrounding the eyes.
- Avoid application of the cream at bed time due to the risk of rubbing the eyes while sleeping and of causing depigmentation in your partner.

- There are no reported cases of changes in hair or eye color from the medication.
- If patient does not respond to treatment after 6 months, then a 30 or 40% concentration can be tried.
- For localized refractory areas, treatment with a Q switched laser for depigmentation can be considered.
- Some patients may develop a few pigmented spots on the face during the summer, this can be treated with 30% or 40% MBEH cream.
- Patients should be monitored every 3 months.
- Photographs should be taken prior to treatment and every 3 months thereafter.

Adverse effects

- The most common side effect is a burning sensation that lasts for few minutes and then resolves spontaneously.
- 15% of patients may develop an allergic reaction in the form of a rash that usually develops a few days after using the cream.
- If the patient develops an allergic reaction, then they should discontinue the medication until symptoms resolve. Topical corticosteroids can be used to hasten the healing process.
- After the skin reaction resolves, the cream can be re-started at a lower concentration. Start with MBEH 5% for 2 weeks then increase by 5% every 2 weeks until a concentration of 20% is reached if no further reaction occurs.

List of Pharmacies that can Fill Prescriptions for MBEH

Medical Center Pharmacy	Yale Physicians Building 800 Howard Avenue New Haven, CT 06511	203-688-6816
Robert Delvecchio, R.Ph. The Medicine Shop	931 Highway 28 Milford, OH 45150	513-831-8211 1-800-944-8211
Market Street Pharmacy (formerly Village Pharmacy) Attn: Sherry Risinger	2530 S. Georgia St. Amarillo, TX 79109	TEL: 806-468-9911 FAX: 806-468-6071
Dick, Pharmacist Owner Randy's Prescription Service	3520 Pacific Avenue Olympia, WA 98501	360-491-0330