



MELANOCYTES TRANSPLANTATION FOR POST-BURN ACHROMIA

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Burns are very stressful situations. Usually they leave not only psychological but also physical scars. Domestic and at work accidents are the most common cause. Sometimes the skin not only becomes wrinkled and with contractures but achromic lesions similar to vitiligo also appears in the burned area.

These achromic scars are caused by the melanocytes death. Since there are no more melanocytes medical treatment with phototherapy or medications used for vitiligo will not help the patients.

Since there are no more melanocytes the only treatment able to restore skin color is melanocytes transplantation. In this patient we performed the surgery using the 1mm micro punch technique.

Our patient is a 32 years old female with post-burn achromia in her right leg. It was the result of a house accident with boiling water 3 years ago. In the physical examination we can see the wrinkles as a result of the burn and in palpation the skin was so hard we could not know if the grafts would survive, so we made a test with 8 micro grafts.



The dressing must stay for 2 weeks.

When we take the dressing out the grafts were all in place.

After 3 months we could see where were the micro grafts and a repigmentation halo around then. With this result we made a second surgery to try the repigmentation of the area. Here we see the surgical planning.



The donor area was the skin behind the right ear. The grafts were prepared with the same 1mm micro punch used to perform the receptor holes in the leg.

The dressing was left for 2 weeks .

After 6 months there no scars in the donor area.



After surgery we wait about 30 minutes to allow the area to dry.

A collagen and glycerin based dressing (Elastogel®) was used to stimulate the cicatrization and to avoid infection. It has a high glycerine content (65%) which is bacteriostatic and fungistatic. There is no necessity to use topical or oral antibiotics. It also does not stick, allowing grafts to stay in place.

After 2 weeks the dressing was removed and all the grafts were in place.

Six months later the color match was impressive. Melanocytes transplantation is a very good method to treat post-burn achromia



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