

## A CLINICAL TRIAL OF "B-663" IN VITILIGO

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## Summary

"B-663" (3-(P-chloranilino)-10-(P-chlorophenyl)-2,10-dihydro-2-(ISO-propylimino) phenazine (Iamphrene, Hansepran) was tried in twenty patients with vitiligo. Majority of cases (17) did not show any improvement. Three cases showed slight repigmentation. Generalised dark brown pigmentation was a major deterrent for the patients to use this drug. Good results claimed in a previous report<sup>4</sup>, could not be substantiated by us.

"B-663" is a substituted iminophenazine dye currently being used in the treatment of leprosy<sup>1,2</sup>. A generalised dusky brown pigmentation of skin, more so on the leprosy lesions has been noted following its prolonged use<sup>3</sup>.

Punshi<sup>4</sup> (1977) has reported repigmentation of vitiliginous patches in 69% of his patients, after 2-3 months of treatment with this drug. The report of such encouraging results prompted us to carry out a trial of this drug in vitiliginous patients.

## Material and Methods

Twenty patients with vitiligo were studied (eleven males and nine females). Detailed examination and routine investigations were carried out. None of patients under study had treatment with psoralens.

Each patient was given "B-663" (Hansepran), one capsule (100 mg)

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daily, for six days in a week. The duration of treatment varied from 3-8 months.

## Observations

Results of the study were analysed and observations are tabulated.

## Comments and Conclusions

Majority of the patients did not show any improvement. Only three cases showed pigmentation in the form of follicular stippling of lesions. However, the generalised dark brown pigmentation far outweighed any definite clinical improvement of vitiliginous lesions. Fifteen patients discontinued the treatment because of the generalised pigmentation. All patients complained of passing dark urine/stools or both. New vitiliginous lesions appeared in seven patients while on treatment.

Patients, when followed up for six weeks after stopping therapy noted gradual loss of this generalised pigmentation. Vitiliginous patches first turned light brown and then reverted to their milky white hue. The dark brown pigmentation noted during treatment is due to deposition of the drug (basically a dye) in the skin. After

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TABLE

S. No.	Duration of disease (months)	Extent of disease	Duration of treatment (months)	Response to treatment	Side-effects		Appearance of fresh lesions (during treatment)	Depigmentation of lesions (6 weeks after stoppage of treatment)
					Generalised dark brown pigmentation of skin and also of vitiliginous patches	Dark urine Dark stools		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	2	Right hand	3	—	+++	+	+	++
2.	3	Right foot and mouth	6	—	+++	+++	—	+++
3.	1	Abdomen and back	4	—	+++	+	—	+++
4.	6	Right arm	8	++	+++	+++	—	+++
5.	4	Face, both arms and abdomen	7	—	+++	+	++	++
6.	8	Both wrists	6	—	+++	+	++	+++
7.	6	Lips, chest, right leg and glans penis	3	—	+++	+++	+++	A
8.	2	Right leg	3	—	+++	+	+++	A
9.	7	Diffuse all over body	3	—	+++	+	—	++
10.	1	Chest and abdomen	3	—	+++	+	—	+++
11.	4	Lips, chest and left leg	4	—	+++	+++	—	+++
12.	11	Diffuse all over body	6	++	+++	+++	—	+++
13.	7	Chest, back and both legs	4	—	+++	+	++	+++
14.	4	Both legs	4	++	+++	+	—	+++
15.	8	Face, mouth and legs	6	—	+++	+	++	+++
16.	1	Both arms, chest and face	4	—	+++	+	—	+++
17.	3	Both arms and both legs	7	—	+++	+	—	+++
18.	5	Legs and face	3	—	+++	+	—	+++
19.	2	Arms, face and chest	4	—	+++	+++	—	+++
20.	4	Legs, abdomen and back	6	—	+++	+	—	+++

Nil = — Nil = — Dark urine = + One or two lesions = + Slight = +  
 Marginal pigmentation = + Moderate = ++ Follicular stippling = ++ Complete repigmentation = +++  
 Dark stools = + Both = +++ Large number lesions = +++ Absconded = A

stoppage of treatment the hyperpigmentation disappears due to gradual excretion of the dye.

From this study, it is concluded that "B-663" (Lamprene, Hansepran) is not effective in the treatment of vitiligo.

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**References**

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**Felicitations**

To Dr. Pravin B. Haribhakti of Ahmedabad on his election as Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.