

VITILIGO - ANTI-THYROID PEROXIDASE ANTIBODY BIELACTWO - PRZECIWCIAŁA PRZECIWKO PEROKSYDAZIE TARCZYCOWEJ

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Sir,

Vitiligo is a common skin depigmenting disease, which is thought to have, at least partly, an autoimmune aetiology. The aim of this study was to explore the correlation between vitiligo and autoimmune thyroiditis, especially Anti-thyroid peroxidase antibody.

Our objective was to compare the frequency of thyroid peroxidase antibody (anti-TPO) in vitiligo patients seen in 2011 in our Department.

Methods

57 cases of vitiligo (39 women and 18 men) were enrolled in this study, for a period of 12 months (Tabl. I), (Fig. 1, 2). The clinical type of vitiligo are shown in Table II and Fig 3. Anti-TPO levels were assessed in order to detect any correlation with the onset, the evolution and the treatment of vitiligo.

Patients with vitiligo and with known thyroid disease, history of thyroid surgery and those receiving thyroid medications were not included.

Age (years)	Male	Female	Percentage (of the total number of vitiligo patients)
under 6	0	0	0
6-10	0	0	0
10-18	3	2	8,77%
18-30	7	8	26,31%
30-40	2	8	17,54%
40-60	3	19	38,60%
over 60	3	5	14,03%

Table I. Age and gender distribution of vitiligo patients

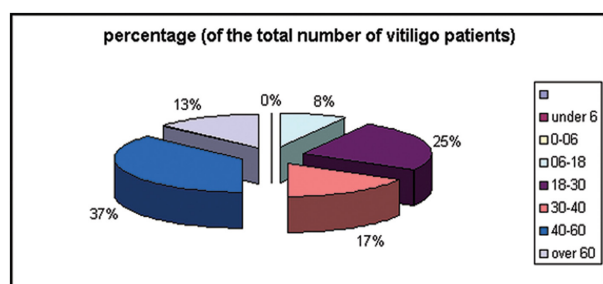


Figure. 1 Percentage (of the total number of vitiligo patients)

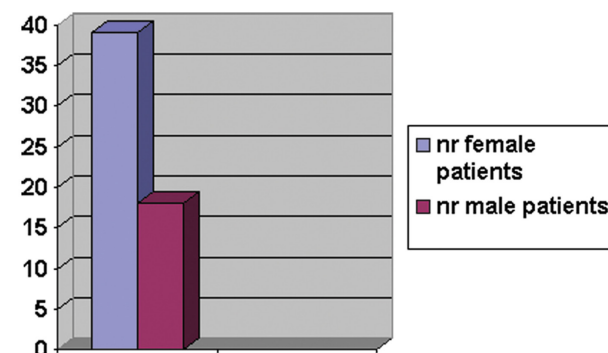


Figure 2. The gender distribution of patients with vitiligo

Clinical forms	Number of patients with vitiligo	Percentage (of the total number of vitiligo patients)	Number of patients with Ac TPO within normal limits (percentage of the total number of vitiligo patients)	Number of patients with Ac TPO high levels (percentage of the total number of vitiligo patients)	Number of patients with unknown value of Ac TPO (percentage of the total number of vitiligo patients)
facial	7	12,28%	3	2	2
acro-facial	4	7,01%	1	0	3
focal	27	47,36%	14	5	8
universal	15	26,31%	6	6	3
acral	4	7,01%	2	2	0
total	57	100%	26 (45,6%)	15 (26,31%)	16 (28,07%)

Table II. The clinical type of vitiligo

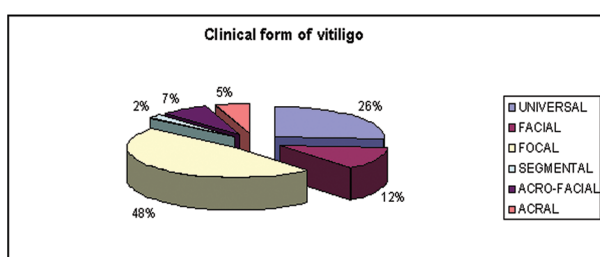


Figure 3. Clinical form of vitiligo

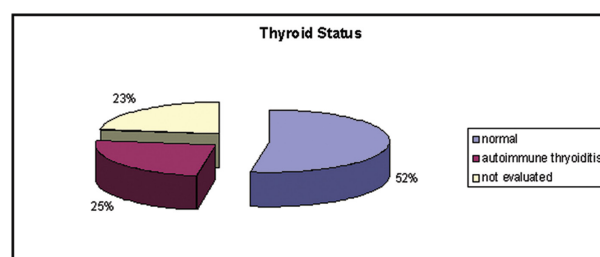


Figure 4. Thyroid status

Of 57 patients with vitiligo: 14 were diagnosed with autoimmune thyroiditis meaning of all patients, 13 patients were not evaluated for thyroid function and 30 had normal thyroid status. (Fig. 4, 5).

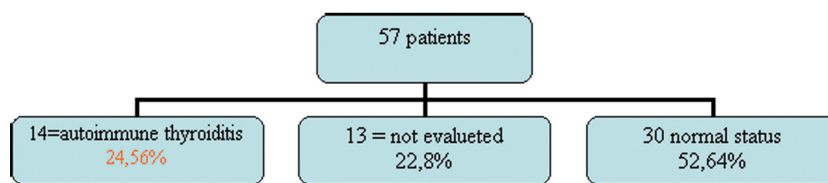


Figure 5. Thyroid status of 57 patients

Conclusions

According to our study, high levels of anti-TPO were shown to be more common in vitiligo patients, especially in young women. As this antibody is a relatively sensitive and specific marker of autoimmune thyroid disorders and considering the fact that vitiligo usually precedes the onset of thyroid dysfunction, periodic follow-up of vitiligo patients for detecting thyroid diseases is further emphasized especially in young women with increased level of anti-TPO.