



Case report: repigmentation of vitiligo with oral baricitinib

Baricitinib, a JAK 1/2 inhibitor, was recently approved in Australia for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

We present the case of a 67-year-old male with vitiligo affecting the hands and forearms with the significant comorbidity of rheumatoid arthritis. Previous treatment for his rheumatoid arthritis included tofacitinib with little improvement in his vitiligo. No other treatment for the vitiligo had been trialed.

Baricitinib 4 mg daily was commenced for treatment of his rheumatoid arthritis as a daily dosing alternative to tofacitinib, and significant repigmentation was observed after 10 months of therapy.

The precise pathogenesis of vitiligo remains to be elucidated, however, interferon-gamma (IFN- γ) dependent chemokine CXCL10 is an important mediator of depigmentation. First generation JAK inhibitors tofacitinib and ruxolitinib suppress IFN- γ and consequently CXCL10, and can result in significant repigmentation in vitiligo.

This case adds to the evidence that JAK inhibitors represent a pathogenesis-directed treatment for vitiligo.

