

# Epidemiological Profile of Childhood Vitiligo: Study of 77 Cases in Kinshasa/R.D.Congo

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## Introduction

Vitiligo is a skin condition characterized by acquired complete epidermal depigmentation areas, it is the most common acquired hypomelanoses. This is a pathology, cosmopolitan, which affects about 1.5 to 2% of the world population, regardless of gender or ethnic origin [1].

Vitiligo usually starts in childhood or in young adults, about half to a third party develops the disease at age 20 and about 25% of them develops within 8 years with a mean age of onset between 4 and 5 years [2]. Vitiligo may also be hereditary, in fact, 20 to 30% of sufferers have a family member with the disease [3]. The controversy regarding its pathogenesis is still valid, several theories are used the most discussed of which are: autoimmune, neurogenic, autotoxique and oxidative stress. In its evolution, vitiligo may be associated with certain autoimmune diseases, including thyroid diseases, diabetes mellitus and may affect social life.

## Objective

The objective of this study is to evaluate the epidemiological and clinical profile in vitiligo patients aged 0-18 years with University Clinics of Kinshasa.

## Materials and Methods

### Nature and Scope of Study

This is a retrospective and descriptive study in Dermatology Department of the University Clinics of Kinshasa in the DRC. It covered a period from January 2000 to December 2009.

## Selection of Cases

To be included in this study, patient records should contain at least epidemiological, clinical and laboratory. The records do not meet these criteria were excluded from this study. And 77 medical records were retained.

## Statistical Analyzes

The EPI-INFO 6.04 software and Excel Version 6 were used for data entry, the EPI-INFO 6.04 software SPSS-PC + allowed us to perform statistical calculations. The chi square test of Pearson was used to compare the different frequencies (Figure 1).



14 year old girl at J0 treatment      At J30 treatment

## Results

### Sociodemographic Character

204 patients with vitiligo in all age groups were received during the same period, 77 patients with a lower age than or equal to 18 years (37.7% of cases of vitiligo in general). The average age of onset of the disease was 9 years old, the youngest age the patient was 12 months (Table 1).

Table 1 : Distribution of patients by age and sex

Age (Year)	Sex (n=77)		
	Female n(%)	Male n(%)	Total n(%)
0-6	19(24,6)	10(12,9)	29(37,6)
07-12	21(27,2)	5(6,4)	26(33,7)
13-18	15(19,4)	7(9)	22(28,5)
Total	55(71,4)	22(28,5)	77(100)

## Clinical

Table 2-5

Table 2: Clinical types of vitiligo

Clinical Type	Number of case	%
Non-segmental	25	32,4
Segmental	52	67,5
Total	77	100

Table 3: Distribution of the vitiligo according to the segments of the body affected

Age (Years)	Segment of body (n=77)							
	Head n(%)	Neck n(%)	Trunk n(%)	U.L.* n(%)	L.L.* n(%)	Perinium n(%)	Multiple n(%)	Total n(%)
0-6	5	1	3	2	5	8	5	29
7-12	8	1	1	0	2	9	5	26
13-18	6	1	3	1	2	2	7	22
Total	19(24,6)	3(3,8)	7(9)	3(3,8)	9(11,6)	19(24,6)	17(22)	77(100)

\*U.L.: Upper Limbs

\*L.L.: Lower Limbs

Table 4: Antécédent of non dermatological pathology

Pathology	Sex (n=77)		
	Female n(%)	Male n(%)	Total n(%)
Asthma	2	2	4(5,1)
Diabetes	4	2	6(7,7)
Other	0	1	1(1,2)
None	49	17	66(85,7)
Total	55(71,4)	22(28,5)	77(100)

Table 5: Antécédent of hypomélánosis

Pathology	Sex (n=77)		
	Female n(%)	Male n(%)	Total n(%)
Albinos	1	0	1(1,2)
Vitiligo	3	5	8(10,3)
Other	0	0	0
None	51	17	68(88,3)

## Conclusion

Our findings are similar to those other authors cited in the literature, mainly as regards the high frequency female patients, segmental vitiligo and a family history of vitiligo.

## References

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