

In Dermatology

Drug-Induced Vitiligo

Drug-induced vitiligo is similar to the non-drug-induced form of vitiligo and is likely due to a similar autoimmune process. It is also called drug-induced leukoderma.



Drug-induced vitiligo has similar risk factors to those for non-drug-induced vitiligo.

A previous history of vitiligo can also make a patient more vulnerable to a drug-induced extension of their pigment loss.

The most common causes of drug-induced vitiligo are immune-modulating, biologic or targeted medicines. The mechanism of drug-induced vitiligo is uncertain and there are currently autoimmune, neural and cytotoxic theories in relation to this.

The diagnosis of drug-induced vitiligo is based on the patient's history and careful general skin examination.

Treatment options for drug-induced vitiligo include:

- Cosmetic camouflage and sunscreens
- Phototherapy
- Excimer laser therapy
- Topical corticosteroids and calcineurin inhibitors
- Skin grafts taken from normally pigmented areas.

Prof. Jayakar Thomas
Dermatologist, Chennai