

Limited economic evidence for vitiligo treatments

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(HealthDay)—The cost burden associated with vitiligo is high, although

no evidence exists for the value of vitiligo treatments, according to a research letter published online Aug. 10 in the *British Journal of Dermatology*.

Emma McManus, Ph.D., from the University of East Anglia in the United Kingdom, and colleagues conducted a [systematic review](#) to examine all economic evidence related to [vitiligo](#), assess the quality of this economic research, and identify gaps in the research.

The researchers identified two published research papers with a primary economic objective. The first was a willingness-to-pay survey conducted among 1,023 German vitiligo patients who were asked how much they were willing to pay for a cure. Overall, 32.5 percent of the patients stated that they would be prepared to pay a one-off investment of more than €5,000 (2006 price year; the highest band offered) for a cure of vitiligo. In a second study, the annual direct cost of treating vitiligo was estimated at \$175,000,000 for 2004 price year (equivalent to £151,935,027.49 in 2016), which included visits to clinicians, hospital appointments, and prescriptions.

"The systematic review does not enable us to answer our title question; it shows that no evidence exists to support or refute the value for money afforded by vitiligo treatments from any perspective (health systems, employers, or individuals)," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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