

# Half of patients with newly diagnosed vitiligo do not receive treatment

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A high proportion of patients with newly diagnosed vitiligo do not

receive any treatment, according to [a study recently published](#) in *Dermatology and Therapy*.

David Rosmarin, M.D., from the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, and colleagues retrospectively analyzed claims data from the Merative MarketScan Research Databases. The analysis included data from 19,335 patients aged 12 years and older with newly diagnosed [vitiligo](#).

The researchers found that 49.9% of patients did not receive any treatment in the 12-month follow-up. Among those initiating treatment, switching was minimal, with the most frequent first-line treatments being high-potency [topical corticosteroids](#) (25.4%), oral corticosteroids (23.1%), and topical calcineurin inhibitors (TCIs; 14.7%). Among [adolescents](#) initiating treatment, TCI was the most frequently received first-line therapy (30.9%).

During follow-up, patients with moderate-to-severe vitiligo were very likely to receive treatment, with only 1.5% not receiving treatment. Time to first medication claim ranged from 51.9 days for TCI to 178.6 days for systemic immunosuppressants. The mean total days supplied ranged from 14.4 days for oral corticosteroids to 121.0 for immunosuppressants.

"To help better understand the needs of patients with vitiligo, future studies need to examine which demographic and clinical characteristics are associated with not receiving treatments for vitiligo," the authors write.

**More information:** David Rosmarin et al, Real-World Treatment Patterns in Patients with Vitiligo in the United States, *Dermatology and Therapy* (2023). [DOI: 10.1007/s13555-023-00983-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s13555-023-00983-3)

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