Tips for easy and rapid epidermal suction blister grafting in vitiligo

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Vitiligo is a chronic, hypopigmented cutaneous disorder. To date, several therapeutic options have been available for treatment of vitiligo, and among them suction blister epidermal grafting is effective for stationary, intractable vitiligo. Despite of its good treatment result, however, it is not easy to perform for inexperienced clinicians and even time-consuming. Here, we provide two tips for easy and rapid epidermal suction blister grafting in vitiligo. To distinguish the epidermal side from the dermal side of donor tissue during epidermal grafting is pretty important for success and survival of the graft. Therefore, we devised a simple method to differentiate the epidermal side through writing a numeral “4” containing upper punctum over the suction blister. Making epidermal suction blister over the donor site is a time-consuming procedure. And this procedure even causes pain due to a negative pressure, so it is difficult to use the method on children with vitiligo. To overcome the above problems, we performed intradermal injection of local anesthetics before making epidermal suction blister, and intradermal infiltration could generate the suction blister more rapidly comparing to conventional method. We believe that those new tips are very
helpful to inexperienced and even skilled clinicians who frequently conduct epidermal suction blister grafting in vitiligo because of their easy and even timesaving nature.