

## **Assessment of community awareness about vitiligo and its treatment in Saudi Arabia**

Amal Khaleel Abualhommos\* Fatimah Ibraheem Alali\* Reem Jafar Al Ali\* Shaima Sadiq Alaithan0\* Maitham Abdullah Al Hawaj\* Mohamed Mukhtar Elteгани\*

### **ABSTRACT**

**Background:** Vitiligo is a chronic skin disorder characterized by the acquired depigmentation of the skin, arising from the selective destruction of melanocytes. This study aims to explore the public knowledge, awareness, and attitude towards vitiligo in Saudi Arabia.

**Method:** An online cross-sectional survey study was conducted to assess public knowledge of vitiligo in October 2022. The questionnaire tool was created utilizing thorough literature reviews of papers that looked at public knowledge of vitiligo. The factors influencing the participants' knowledge of vitiligo were identified using binary logistic regression analysis.

**Results:** A total of 372 individual participated in this study. The mean knowledge score of the study participants was 8.2 (SD: 3.6) out of 22 (37.3% out of 100%), which represents weak level of knowledge of vitiligo among the study participants. Logistic regression analysis identified that females, younger participants (19-30 years old), and those who work in the healthcare sector were more likely to be knowledgeable about vitiligo compared to others ( $p \leq 0.5$ ).

**Conclusion:** It is highly recommended that Saudi Arabia prioritize awareness initiatives. The study demonstrates the widespread occurrence of the condition and the profound psychological impact it has, leading to feelings of isolation and diminished self-worth. Clearly, targeted educational programs are necessary to rectify misconceptions and foster comprehension, particularly among underinformed groups. Collaborating with healthcare professionals could prove to be highly beneficial.

**Keywords:** Community; Knowledge; Vitiligo; Saudi Arabia

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\* Pharmacy Practice Department, Clinical Pharmacy College  
King Faisal University, Alhasa, Saudi Arabia.  
Email: aabualhommos@kfu.edu.sa