

Possible role of psychological and environmental factors in the genesis of childhood vitiligo Factores psicobiológicos en vitiligo infantil: Posible rol en su génesis e impacto en la calidad de vida

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Background: The exposure to stressing situations may play a role in the appearance of vitiligo. Patients with the disease have a greater sensitivity to environmental stress and a lower threshold to generate catecholamine mediated responses. **Aim:** To evaluate the temperament and character of patients with vitiligo and explore the relationship of the disease with negative life events and life quality impairment. **Material and methods:** The study population were 21 patients with vitiligo aged 5 to 12 years, and two control groups (G1 and G2). G1 was composed by 14 healthy siblings of vitiligo patients. G2 was composed by 21 age and gender matched healthy students from two schools in Santiago, Chile. The Junior Temperament and Character Inventory (JTCI), the Qualitative Psychosocial Development Survey (QPDS), the Life Event Checklist (LEC) and the Childrens' Life Quality Index (CDLQI) were applied (LEC only to vitiligo patients). **Results:** On the temperament dimensions, vitiligo patients score