



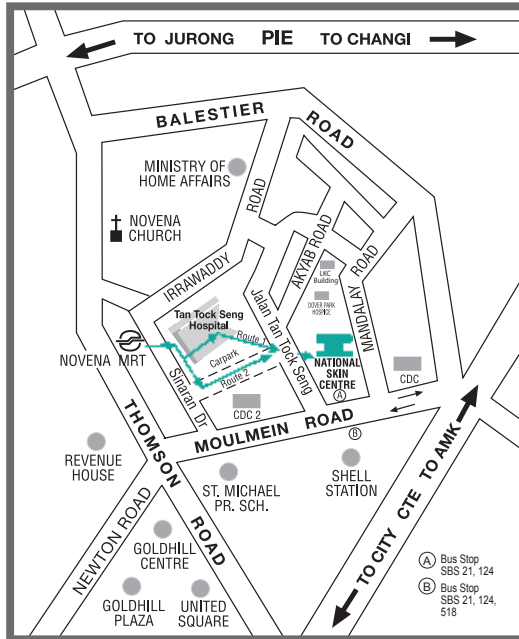
## NSC Patient Health Portal

It is an online system that allows our patients to access their health records. To sign up for this free service, you may approach the clinic billing counters when you come for your consultation. Our counter staff will assist you with the registration.

Your account will be activated within 24 hrs upon registration and you can log in via <https://www.myportal.nsc.com.sg> using your password.

\* This service is only available for patients whose last visit to NSC was within the past 1 year.

## NON-CULTURED CELLULAR GRAFTING FOR VITILIGO



### National Skin Centre

1 Mandalay Road, Singapore 308205

Tel: 6253 4455 Fax: 6253 3225

Tel for Appointment : 6350 6666  
Fax for Appointment : 6258 2475 (Singapore)  
(65) 6253 3225 (Overseas)  
Internet Appointment : [www.nsc.com.sg](http://www.nsc.com.sg)  
Recorded Information : 6350 6680

Our Appointment Hotline is open from:

Mondays to Fridays : 8.00 am to 5.00 pm

(Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays)

Website: [www.nsc.com.sg](http://www.nsc.com.sg)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NationalSkinCentre](https://www.facebook.com/NationalSkinCentre)

Medication Enquiries: [pharmacy@nsc.com.sg](mailto:pharmacy@nsc.com.sg)



## Non-Cultured Cellular Grafting for Vitiligo

### What is vitiligo?

Vitiligo is a common skin condition that affects at least one in every hundred people in Singapore. In the skin affected by vitiligo, the pigment cells (melanocytes) are absent, giving rise to white patches. The exact cause(s) that leads to the disappearance of these cells is still unknown, although the immune system may play an important role.



*Pre- and post- cellular grafting on a segmental vitiligo on the left lower chin and neck.*

### What is cellular grafting?

While many methods are available to treat vitiligo, including steroid creams and ultraviolet light treatment, not all individuals with vitiligo show good improvement. For those who do not respond to conventional therapy, surgical transplant provides a viable option. Non-cultured cellular grafting is an innovative surgical technique that transplants an individual's own pigment cells onto his / her vitiligo patches, without the need of growing the cells in the laboratory. This transplantation technique can achieve good to excellent return of skin colour.

### What happens during non-cultured cellular grafting?

A small thin piece of normal skin (usually one-tenth to one-fifth the size of the vitiligo area) is removed from the hip (donor site) of the affected individual. This tissue is brought to our laboratory for extraction of skin cells (including pigment cells). The upper layer of skin of the vitiligo patches (recipient site) is then removed using carbon dioxide laser, followed by application of the skin cells. The area is covered with a dressing and left in place for 1 week.

### How long does the procedure take?

The entire procedure, including laboratory work, takes about 3 to 4 hours to complete.

### What happens after the transplant?

Three days after the transplant, you will return for a follow-up visit. During this review, the doctor will assess if there is any leakage of cell suspension from the recipient site, and the dressing over the donor site will be changed. Four days later, you will return for a second visit. This is to make sure the donor site has healed well; the dressings on the recipient area will be removed and the wound reviewed. Thereafter you are encouraged to expose the treated areas to sunlight for 10 to 15 minutes daily.

### When will a return of skin colour take place?

After the transplant, the treated areas will remain red for about 2 to 3 weeks. In some individuals, a return of skin colour can be seen as early as 4 weeks after transplant. In most individuals, however, it takes about 3 months to see a return of skin colour, and 6 months for the colour to blend with the surrounding normal skin

### Who will benefit from non-cultured cellular grafting?

This procedure will benefit affected individuals who have failed conventional therapy and whose vitiligo patches have remained stable. "Stability" means no increase in size of the vitiligo patches and no appearance of new patches for at least 6 months to a year.

### What are the possible side effects of this procedure?

Non-cultured cellular grafting is a safe surgical procedure. However, as in all forms of surgery, risks do exist. The side effects include pain, bleeding at the donor site (this is usually mild and temporary) and wound infection. Scarring on the donor and recipient sites can occur. However, this will be minimized by removing only the upper layer of the skin.