

INTRODUCTION

- Vitiligo is a common acquired depigmentation skin disorder affecting 1% of the population and remains a major challenge in dermatology.
- Vitiligo profoundly affects the daily lives of patients, but the patients' concerns and distress are often undervalued.

OBJECTIVES

- To explore what patients with vitiligo are saying about the disease on social network service.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- A total of 1000 submissions were scraped from the vitiligo subreddit in Reddit (<https://www.reddit.com/>).
- The words used were sorted by frequency and classified into positive, negative or neutral classes.
- In addition, the words commonly expressed by patients with vitiligo were compared to words by patients with other skin diseases, such as psoriasis, eczema, alopecia areata, and hidradenitis suppurativa.

RESULTS

- The most frequently mentioned words in the reddit submissions for vitiligo were 'vitiligo', 'skin', 'white', 'spots', 'treatment', 'spread', 'patches', 'started', 'time', 'body', 'noticed', 'patch', 'uvb', and 'sun'.
- The words that expressed negative emotions for vitiligo were 'spread', 'stress', 'bad', 'worse', 'hard', 'pale', 'progress', 'wrong', 'issues', and 'cancer' in order.
- Compared to other diseases, the word 'spread' and 'progress' were more noticeable in vitiligo submission.

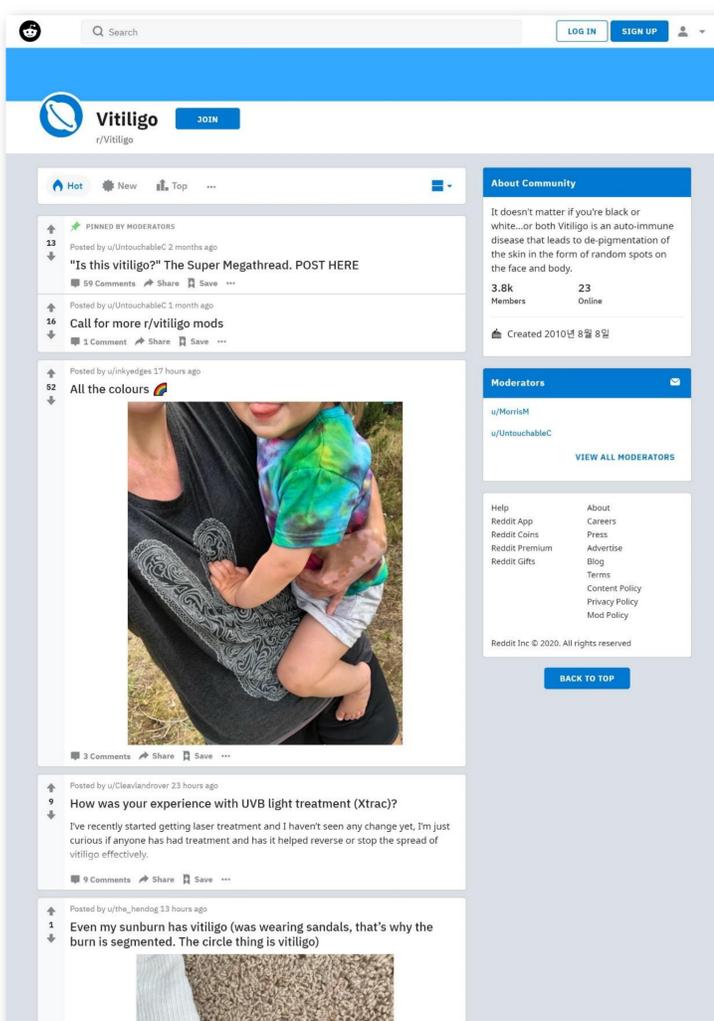


Figure 1. Vitiligo subreddit in Reddit (<https://www.reddit.com/r/Vitiligo/>)



Figure 2. The noticeable words in vitiligo submission were 'spread' and 'progress'

CONCLUSION

- Web scraping and text-mining from social network services allow us to discover the patients' voice directly.
- The spread of vitiligo seems to be of the greatest concern in patients with vitiligo.

REFERENCES

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