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

- Compared to other diseases, the word ‘spread’ and ‘progress’ were more noticeable in vitiligo submission.

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