



PIGMENTARY CHANGES

Changes in the color of the skin occur when there is interference with the melanocytes, the pigment producing cells which make melanin. A variety of situations can lead to lightening (hypopigmentation) or darkening (hyperpigmentation) of the skin. Some examples include:

• Lightening of the skin

- Albinism
- Bleaching agents
 - Hydroquinones
 - Mequinol
 - Trichloroacetic acid
- Burn
- Cortico-steroid application
 - Intralesionally
 - Topically
- Pityriasis alba
- Post-inflammatory hypopigmentation
- Tinea versicolor
- Vitiligo

• Darkening of the skin

- Burn
- Cushing's disease
- Melasma
- Poikiloderma of Civatte
- Post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation
- Photodermatitis
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
- Polymorphic light eruption
- PUVA and PUVB (psoralens and ultraviolet light)
- Suntanning
- Tinea versicolor

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