# Successful Treatment of Tinea Versicolor with Econazole Nitrate Topical Foam 1% (Ecoza)

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## Background

- Tinea versicolor is a common superficial fungal infection of the stratum corneum caused by lipophilic yeast of the genus Malassezia<sup>1</sup>
- The fungus interferes with the normal pigmentation of the skin, resulting in small, discolored patches that may be lighter or darker in color than the surrounding skin, often accompanied with superficial scale
- Typical affected areas include the trunk and shoulders
- Sun exposure may make tinea versicolor more apparent
- Clinical diagnosis is based on the characteristic cutaneous findings and can be confirmed by KOH microscopic examination that reveals hyphae and spores with a characteristic spaghetti-and-meatballs appearance. In addition, certain strains fluoresce when exposed to Wood's light (UVA)

#### KOH preparation of tinea versicolor



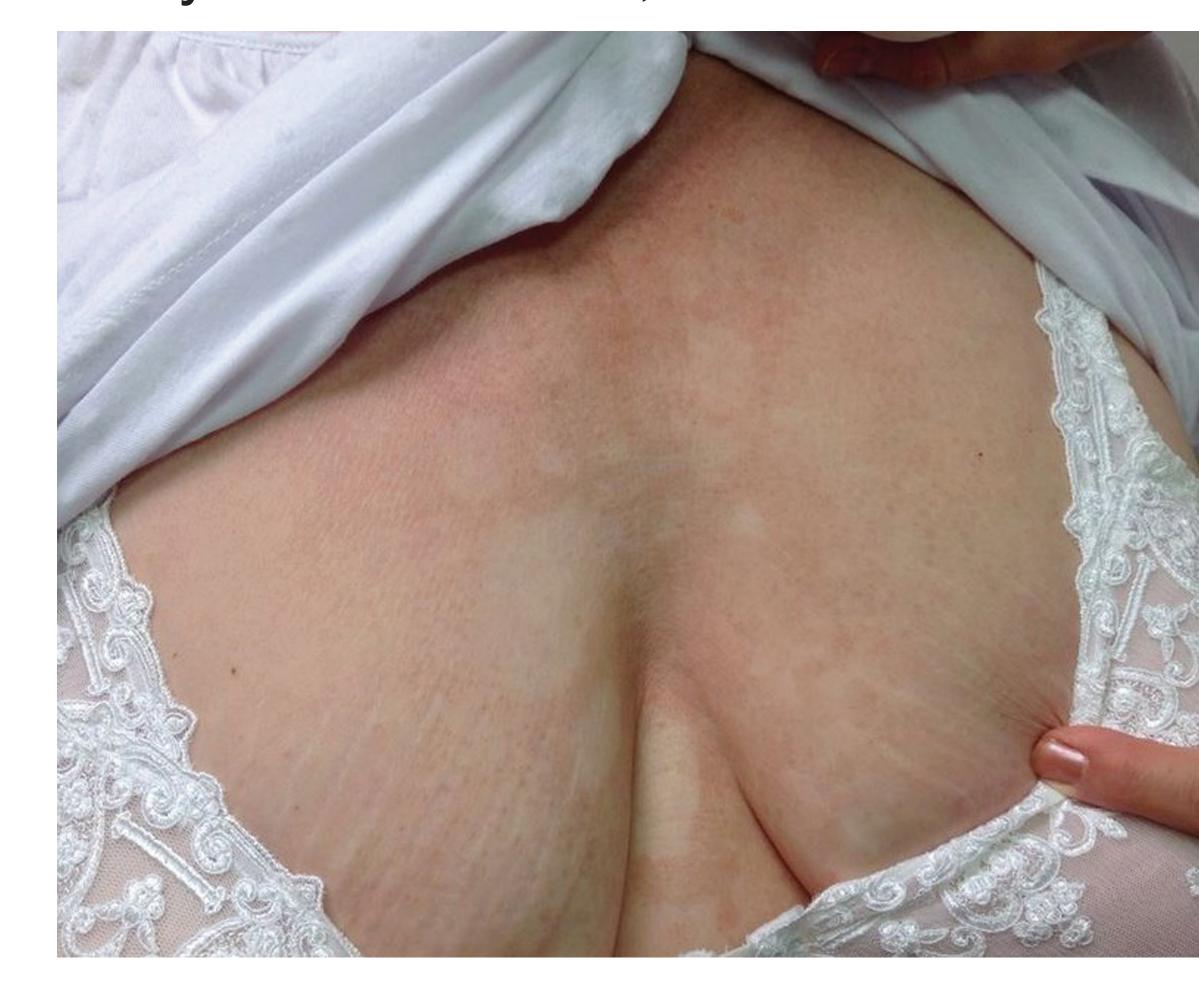
- A variety of agents are utilized to treat tinea versicolor including azole and allylamine antifungals<sup>2</sup>
- The gold standard for extensive cases was oral ketoconazole; however, in 2013 the FDA issued a warning advising against use of this medication to treat common yeast and fungal infections due to safety concerns<sup>3</sup>
- Econazole nitrate is an azole antifungal commonly used to treat tinea infections
- Econazole is currently the only prescription antifungal available in a foam formulation, which may be more convenient to apply

## Case Report

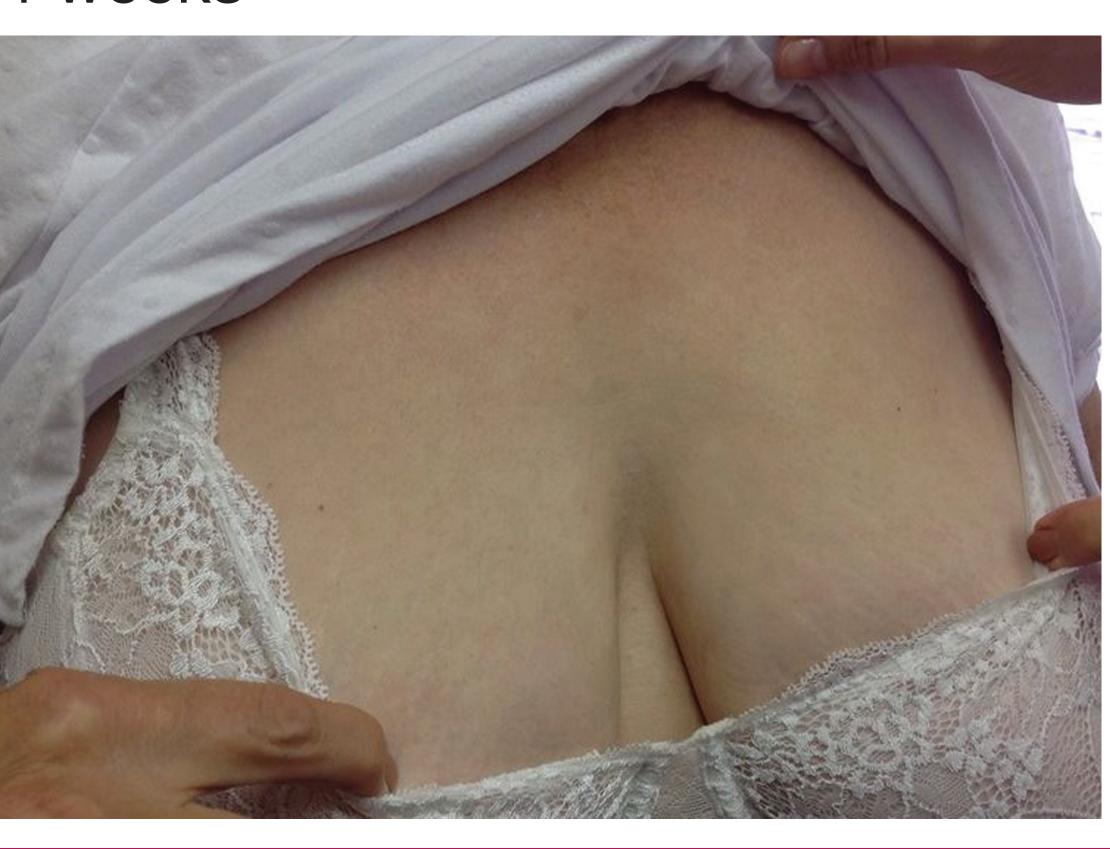
- This report documents the topical treatment of a moderate case of tinea versicolor with econazole nitrate topical foam 1% (Ecoza)
- Patient background
- 66-year-old female
- Takes medication for hypertension; no prior dermatoses
- Symptoms
- Mildly pruritic eruption on chest, first noted several weeks prior to baseline visit
- Dermatosis became more apparent with sun exposure
- Examination
- Scattered hypopigmented macules with slight scale
- Dermatosis covered upper chest area
- Yellow-green fluorescence was noted under Wood's light
- Diagnos
- Moderate tinea versicolor

- Treatment
- Econazole nitrate topical foam 1% (Ecoza)
- Thin layer of foam applied once daily for 3 weeks
- Follow-up
- Patient returned for follow-up visit at 4 weeks
- Condition had resolved and skin was designated as clear

Moderate case of tinea versicolor in 66-year-old female, baseline



Resolution of tinea versicolor at 4 weeks



### Discussion

- Given the recent FDA mandate warning against use of oral ketoconazole for non-life threatening disorders, treatment of conditions such as extensive tinea versicolor will rely on topical therapies to an even greater degree
- Econazole demonstrated efficacy when used to treat this case of truncal tinea versicolor
- The foam formulation of econazole is easy to apply and less messy than creams and ointments, particularly to hair-bearing regions of the body

#### Conclusions

- Econazole is an option for treating tinea versicolor
- Econazole in a foam formulation is well suited for treating this condition

#### References

- 1. Faergemann J, Fredriksson T. Tinea versicolor: some new aspects on etiology, pathogenesis, and treatment. *Int J Dermatol.* 1982;21:8-11.
- 2. Drake LA, Dinehart SM, Farmer ER, et al. Guidelines of care for superficial mycotic infections of the skin: pityriasis (tinea) versicolor. Guidelines/Outcomes Committee. American Academy of Dermatology. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 1996;34(2 Pt 1):287-289.
- 3. FDA Drug Safety Communication: FDA limits usage of Nizoral (ketoconazole) oral tablets due to potentially fatal liver injury and risk of drug interactions and adrenal gland problems. Published July 26, 2013. http://www.fda.gov/drugs/drugsafety/ucm362415.htm.

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