TABLE OF CONTENTS

Sr. No.	Title	Page No.
Chapter 1	Introduction and Review of literature	1-45
1.1	The Skin: largest organ of the human body	1
1.2	Fundamental of skin coloration	3
1.3	Pigmentation related disorders	5
1.4	Vitiligo (definition/ history/ classification)	5
1.4.1	Brief history of Vitiligo	5
1.4.2	Definition of disease and classification	6
1.5	Prevalence of vitiligo	7
1.6	Pathophysiology of vitiligo	8
1.6.1	Genetic background of vitiligo	8
1.6.2	Oxidative stress theory	10
1.6.3	Autoimmune hypothesis of vitiligo	11
1.7	Introduction to immunity	12
1.8	T cell activation and B7 family proteins	13
1.9	VTCN1: genomic organization and protein structure	14
1.10	The physiological function of VTCN1	17
1.11	VTCN1 and autoimmune diseases	18
1.12	VTCN1 in Rheumatoid Arthritis	18
1.13	VTCN1 in Type 1 Diabetes	19
1.14	VTCN1 in Multiple Sclerosis	20
1.15	VTCN1 in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)	21
1.16	VTCN1 in Primary Biliary Cirrhosis (PBC)	22
1.17	VTCN1 in primary Sjögren's Syndrome (pSS)	22
1.18	Therapeutic potential of VTCN1Ig (B7-H4 Ig) for various autoimmune diseases	23
1.19	VTCN1 in Vitiligo	24
1.20	References	29
	OBJECTIVES	46
Chapter 2	To investigate the association of VTCN1 polymorphisms,	47-73
	VTCN1 and NRD1 transcripts and protein levels with	
	vitiligo susceptibility in Gujarat population	
2.1	Introduction	47
2.2	Materials and Methods	48
2.2.1	Ethics committee approval	48
2.2.2	Study population	48

2.2.3	Genotyping of VTCN1 rs10923223 (T/C) and rs12046117	49
	(C/T) polymorphisms	
2.2.3.1	Genomic DNA extraction	49
2.2.3.2	PCR-RFLP for genotyping of <i>VTCN1</i> rs10923223 (T/C) and rs12046117 (C/T) polymorphisms	50
2.2.4	Estimation of <i>VTCN1</i> and <i>NRD1</i> transcript levels from PBMCs and skin	51
2.2.4.1	RNA extraction and cDNA synthesis	51
2.2.4.2	Quantitative real-time PCR	51
2.2.5	Estimation of plasma sVTCN1 and NRD1 levels	53
2.2.6	Immunohistochemical analysis of vitiliginous skin	53
2.2.7	Statistical analyses	54
2.3	Results	54
2.3.1	Analysis of association of <i>VTCN1</i> rs12046117 (C/T) polymorphism with vitiligo susceptibility	54
2.3.2	Analysis of association of <i>VTCN1</i> rs10923223 (T/C) polymorphism with vitiligo susceptibility	54
2.3.3	Linkage disequilibrium and haplotype analyses	58
2.3.4	Bioinformatics analysis of <i>VTCN1</i> rs12046117 (C/T) and rs10923223 (T/C) polymorphisms	58
2.3.5	Analysis of <i>VTCN1</i> and <i>NRD1</i> transcripts levels from PBMCs	59
2.3.6	Analysis of <i>VTCN1</i> and <i>NRD1</i> transcript levels from the skin	61
2.3.7	Analysis of plasma sVTCN1 and NRD1 levels	61
2.3.8	Correlation of sVTCN1 with NRD1 in patients with vitiligo	63
2.3.9	Decreased VTCN1 protein expression in vitiliginous skin	64
2.4	Discussion	65
2.5	Reference	69
Chapter 3	To carry out immunophenotypic analysis of VTCN1	74-103
	in vitiligo patients	
3.1	Introduction	74
3.2	Materials and Methods	77
3.2.1	Ethical Committee Approval	77
3.2.2	Study population	77
3.2.3	Flow cytometric analysis of leucocytes from blood samples	78
3.2.4	Flow cytometric analysis of leucocytes from skin samples	79
3.2.5	Statistical analyses	80
3.3	Results	81
3.3	Kesuits	01

3.3.2	Immunophenotyping of VTCN1 on different immune cells	84
	from Blood	
3.3.3	Immunophenotyping of VTCN1 on different T cells isolated	88
	from Skin	
3.4	Discussion	90
3.5	References	96
Chapter 4	To study the effect of proinflammatory and anti-	104-118
	inflammatory cytokines on VTCN1 expression and	
	STAT3 activation	
4.1	Introduction	104
4.2	Materials and Methods	106
4.2.1	THP1 cell culture and cytokine treatment	106
4.2.2	Western Blot analysis of pSTAT3, t-STAT3 and VTCN1	106
4.2.3	Statistical Analysis	106
4.3	Results	107
4.3.1	Assessment of VTCN1 expression upon IFN- γ , TNF- α and	107
	IL-10 treatment in THP1 cells	
4.4	Discussion	111
4.5	Reference	113
5	Conclusion	119-122
6	Appendix	A-C
7	Publications & Presentations	i-ii
8	Synopsis	