



FIGURE 3.1 Lukoskin product.

3.1.1 INCIDENCE OF LEUCODERMA

Worldwide leucoderma incidence has been reported to be 1–2% of the population. In Japan it is 1.64%, 1.0% in the Soviet Union, 1.4% in the United States, 0.24% in Great Britain 0.39% in Switzerland and 1.0% in Egypt. In India the incidence of disease is 3–4%, but in some parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat it is as high as 8–9%, in which the male/female ratio is reported to be 1:2.5.

Leucoderma could affect anybody, it is not at all an infectious disease. It cannot spread by any kind of contact, such as sharing food, linens or clothing. It is perfectly safe to touch, hug and kiss persons affected by this disease.

There is a 60–70% chance are that a child of one parent with leucoderma may not develop leucoderma at all. However, the chances of transmitting leucoderma to children become more prevalent in cases of marriage between cousins. If someone with leucoderma marries their first cousin, there is a 60–70% chance that the child will have normal skin (Hafez et al. 1983).

3.1.2 CLINICAL FEATURES OF LEUCODERMA

The disease is characterized by well-defined, varying sized macules of milk white appearance due to complete absence of melanin (Dutta et al. 1969). The following are the characteristics of leucoderma lesions:

- Localized or widespread: milk white, dead white or chalk white
- Scattered or confluent
- Small-sized macules; oval, round and irregular in shape, sometimes streaking and in larger patches
- Lesions may be unilateral, mostly bilateral, and not always symmetrical.