



DERMATOPATHOLOGY

A RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF HISTOPATHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF MORPHEA

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Background: Morphea or localised scleroderma is a connective tissue disorder characterised by thickening of the skin. Histologically, it is characterised by thickening, homogenisation and sclerosis of the collagen bundles in the dermis.

Objective: To analyse the histopathological features of morphea and correlate these findings with the clinical presentation.

Materials and Methods: Skin biopsies from 27 patients of morphea were collected from the histopathological archives of the hospital for one year. The criteria evaluated include stage of the disease (inflammatory, intermediate or sclerotic), depth of involvement. The changes seen in the epidermis, dermis and subcutaneous tissue, appendages were noted and the details of the inflammatory infiltrate were evaluated.

Results: Atrophic stage of morphea (77%) was most commonly encountered in the specimens. This was followed by sclerotic (18%) and inflammatory stage (4%). The depth of involvement was upto the deep dermis in majority of the cases (81%). Involvement of the subcutaneous tissue was seen in 11% while only 7% cases had findings in the reticular dermis which mimicked lichen sclerosus et atrophicus. 56% of the analysed slides revealed epidermal changes like hyperpigmentation, hyperplasia or both while 44% had normal epidermis.

Infiltrate in the dermis was located in the perivascular, peri-appendageal areas. Infiltrate involving the interstitium was also observed in the study which was a relatively under reported finding.

