



DERMOSCOPY AND SKIN IMAGING

DERMOSCOPIIC PATTERN OF TOPICAL STEROID DAMAGED/DEPENDENT FACE IN SKIN OF COLOUR

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INTRODUCTION: Topical Steroid Damaged/Dependent face (TSDF) is a phenomenon characterized by a plethora of symptoms caused by an unsupervised misuse/abuse of topical corticosteroid on the face over an unspecified and/or prolonged period of time. Usually patients do not acknowledge steroid abuse and thus pose diagnostic dilemma. Dermoscopy not only helps in diagnosis, but aids in monitoring patient's adherence to management as well.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES: To study the dermoscopic patterns of this newly described entity.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: 50 patients diagnosed clinically with TSDF were evaluated dermoscopically (EScope; Nakoda, x20) over the face and various patterns identified were studied.

RESULTS : There were 50 cases of TSDF (n=50) out of which 31 (62%) were female and 19 (38%) males. The age group of 18-20 accounted for maximum no of cases. The most common reason for application was as cosmetic cream followed by melasma and acne. Dermoscopy (EScope; Nakoda, x20; polarizing) revealed the presence of irregularly dilated, branched tortuous vessels almost interconnecting with each other giving a "polygonal pattern" in 46 patients (88%). Between the larger interconnecting vessels, there were non linear smaller vessels and red dots in 84% patients. White structureless areas corresponding to dermal atrophy was seen in almost all the cases (96%) and yellowish areas were also visible corresponding to skin transparency due to epidermal atrophy was present in more than half of cases (52%). A reddish-brown background, brown dots, globules and clods suggestive of a background of melasma was seen in 56 % of patients.

CONCLUSION: TSDF is a recently described entity and dermoscopy aids in accurately diagnosing and non invasively differentiating from other conditions like erythematotelangiectatic rosacea . To the best of our knowledge, this is the first of its kind study of dermoscopy in TSDF.

