DERMOSCOPY AND SKIN IMAGING

DERMOSCOPY OF LISCH NODULES IN NEUROFIBROMATOSIS TYPE 1: A SERIES OF 3 CASES ON BROWN EYES

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Background: Neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1) is a congenital disease of autosomal dominant inheritance. Its diagnosis is based mainly on criteria namely axillary freckling, cafe-au-lait spots, cutaneous neurofibromas, Lisch nodules, bone anomalies, optic glioma and a first-degree relative with neurofibromatosis type 1. These criteria have a variable prevalence according to age. Cafe-au-lait spots and Lisch nodules are among the earlier signs often preceding the appearance of neurofibromas. Therefore, a frequently encountered situation is a young child with no family history of NF1, multiple cafe-au-lait spots and no neurofibromas. The presence of two or more Lisch nodules is a sure sign of NF1 in this context. A publication in 2015 reported a case of NF1 where Lisch nodules where visualized by dermoscopy. In that case, the patient was blue eyed and the Lisch nodules were highly contrasted. We report herein three case of NF1 where Lisch nodules were seen on dermoscopy on brown irises.

Observation: Three male patients aged 16, 24 and 31 years old with an already confirmed diagnosis of NF1. All three cases had axillary freckling, cafe-au-lait spots and multiple neurofibromas. In two cases, the NF1 was sporadic and the other had a family history of the disease. In all cases, dermoscopy found multiple sharply demarcated nodules sized 1 to 2 mm. Their color was tan and was slightly lighter than the brown background of the iris.

Key message: Dermoscopy is a useful tool for to look for Lisch nodules that can be visualized easily even in brown eyed patients. This can be particularly interesting in children with no family history of NF1 and multiple cafe-au-lait spots when cutaneous neurofibromas have not yet appeared.