DERMOSCOPY AND SKIN IMAGING

DERMOSCOPY ON VIRUS, FUNGI AND PARASITES INFECTIOUS SKIN-EXPERIENCE IN CHINA

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Introduction: Dermoscopy has been widely used in the early diagnosis of pigmented, neoplastic and inflammatory skin diseases, but are few applied for infectious skin diseases, for worry of cross-infection by contact each others.

Objective: We invented a method to prevent contamination during operation, so dermoscopy could be routinely used for observe the details of the infectious skin diseases.

Materials and Methods: The parafilm could be cut into tape strips, and then roll and cover the dermoscopy edge for 1-2 cycles. When the dermoscopy is done, the parafilm is easily replaced for the next person. In the situation like ulcerated, exuding, hairy, or mucosal sites, we use a disposable polyethylene glove before dermoscopy to avoid direct contact between patient and dermoscope/dermoscope operator. To do so, a finger cap of the glove should be cut off, then the residual glove wraps the whole dermoscope and the hand of the operator.

Results: 1. Viruses infected skin diseases including molluscum contagiosum, verruca vulgaris, condyloma acuminatum, chickenpox, herpes zoster and simplex were easy to diagnoses according to their special characteristics under dermoscopy. 2. Fungal infected diseases covered tinea capitis, white piedra, tinea pedis, onychomycosis, tinea cruris, tinea corporis, pityriasis versicolor, Malassezia folliculitis, penicilliposis marneffei. 3. Parasites focused on crab louse. We observed the Phthirus pubis all life cycle stages namely translucent empty nits, nits containing nymphs, nymph and adult phases within a single field of view.

Conclusions: Parafilm and disposable polyethylene glove are simple, easily-available, cheap, and useful things to keep dermoscope clean. UV-dermoscopy acts as a mini and portable Wood's lamp device. Dermoscopy is convenient, quick and practical to direct determination of pathogens, to find the clues of virus, fungi or parasites infection, and, to evaluate the efficacy of treatment.