DERMOSCOPY AND SKIN IMAGING

MELANOCYTIC NEVI: PATTERN AFTER LASER THERAPY

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Background: Lasers are widely used in dermatology for various indications. Nevi may be exposed to lasers either in a therapeutic purpose or while performing a hair removal procedure on the concerned area. Dermoscopy is a useful tool to monitor changes that may therefore arise. We describe the dermoscopic features of nevi after laser treatment in two cases.

Observation n°1: A 28-year-old female patient had a hypertrophic burn scar on her right cheek treated with carbon dioxide (CO2) laser. She presented to our department after noticing changes of color in the preexisting nevi located on the treated areas. Dermoscopy of the nevi revealed atypical dermoscopic features, including blue-white structures over an atypical pigmented pseudonetwork. The lesions were removed for histopathologic examination which revealed edema, fibrosis, capillary neoformation, and pigment incontinence in papillary dermis, with residual nevocellular nests in the dermoepidermal junction.

Observation n°2: A 37-year-old woman presented to our department after she noticed changes on a nevus on her leg occurring after treatment with Nd-YAG laser for hair removal. Dermoscopic examination showed an atypical fading reticular pattern surmounted by a blue-whitish veil. A surgical excision revealed a junctional nevus and no atypical features.

Key message: Data on dermoscopic changes of nevi after laser treatment is limited. The blue and white structures are commonly described in the reported cases. The presence of such findings including a blue-white veil is classically a clue to melanoma. This could lead to a management dilemma. Further research on the changes of nevi treated or exposed to lasers is needed in order to recognize the potential signs of malignancy and therefore avoid unnecessary excisions.