



DERMOSCOPY AND SKIN IMAGING

THE CLINICAL AND DERMOSCOPIC PATTERNS OF TOPICAL STEROID DEPENDENT FACE IN NORTHERN INDIA

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BACKGROUND: Since the advent of topical corticosteroids (TC) of varying potency, these have come out as a boon to modern dermatological practice for treating inflammatory and autoimmune disorders. However, the drug has been misused to a large extent to have played havoc in day to day practise rendering the usefulness of the drug questionable over the face. The long term misuse/unsupervised/overuse of over the counter steroid preparations over the face has led to identification of various clinical and dermoscopic patterns of steroid abuse.

OBSERVATIONS: We report various clinical and dermoscopic patterns of the steroid damaged/dependent face in 30 patients who have used topical steroids largely for acne, melasma , tinea faciei and fairness. Some of the noteworthy findings were erythema, steroid atrophy, telangiectasias , striae, hypertrichosis, pigmentary disturbances and photosensitivity.

KEY MESSAGE: Timely management of steroid dependent facies and underlying condition is important in order to prevent some serious and permanent complications.

