



LASERS

FRACTIONAL CO₂ LASER GIVING A NEW LEASE OF FACIAL LIFE IN A CASE OF FAVRE-RACOUCHOT SYNDROME.

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BACKGROUND: Favre-Racouchot syndrome (also known as nodular elastoidosis with cysts and comedones; elastoidosis cutanea nodularis et cystic, FRS) is a peculiar complication of solar degeneration of the skin manifesting with yellowish and atrophic skin, multiple, large, black comedones, follicular cysts, wrinkles and furrows, and yellowish nodules affecting mostly the temporo-periorbital skin of elderly individuals. Its exact pathogenesis is unclear but clinicopathologic and histochemical studies suggest that extensive exposure to sun and harsh weather is largely responsible.

OBSERVATION: A 65 year old male presented to the skin OPD with asymptomatic lesions over the face since 9 years. He was a chronic smoker since 30 years and alcoholic since 20 years. Farmer by occupation, history of sun exposure was substantial. On examination: Marked sun-damaged but thickened skin, with skin colored to yellowish nodules, prominent wrinkles and furrows, multiple, open and closed, non-inflammatory comedones present bilaterally over the cheeks, tip of the nose, periorbital and temporal areas. Lenticular Opacity was present in right eye. Patient underwent two sittings of fractional CO₂ and showed good cosmetic result.

KEY MESSAGE: FRS occurs in approximately 6% individuals of >50 years of age and predominantly among whites. Heavy smoking and radiation therapy are other reported predisposing factors. Apart from temporo-periorbital skin, lateral neck, postauricular areas, earlobes, and forearms can be involved. Though there are various treatment modality available, there are few reports of use of CO₂ laser. I emphasize on this case for its rarity and even rarer method of management with very good results.

