



LASERS

THE EFFECTIVE TREATMENT OF DERMATOSIS PAPULOSA NIGRA USING A CARBON DIOXIDE SURGICAL LASER WITH A COMPUTERIZED SCANNER

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Background: Dermatoses papulosa nigra (DPN) is characterised by the presence of multiple, small, hyperpigmented, warty papules affecting the face, neck and trunk that bear a histological semblance to seborrheic keratosis. Although the lesions are benign tumors, patients can be distressed for cosmetic reasons. Treatment options include surgical excision, cryotherapy, curettage and laser therapy. However, all of these procedures carry a risk of scarring and dyspigmentation. We herein report three Japanese patients with DPN treated using a carbon dioxide surgical laser with a computerized scanner.

Observation: The patients included a 50-year-old female (patient 1), a 52-year-old female (patient 2) and a 36-year-old female (patient 3), all suffering from an increasing number of brown asymptomatic papules. Physical examinations revealed brown papules ranging in size from 1 to 5 mm over the trunk. Histological examinations showed acanthosis, hyperkeratosis and pseudo-horn cyst forming in the epidermis. The upward intraepidermal proliferation of basal-like cells was noted. Dysplasia was not present. All patients were otherwise well, with a normal healthy growth and development. These patients were diagnosed with DPN based on their clinical and histopathological findings. We used a carbon dioxide surgical laser (LASER 30C; Lumenis Inc., Yokneum, Israel) at a setting of 8-10 W with a 0.05-sec pulse duration, 0.36-sec rest duration, and 1.2-mm laser spot size for 5 to 10 months. We were able to completely remove the lesions and achieve excellent cosmetic results in all cases with no scar formation. The treated lesions did not relapse for more than one year.

Key message: In our opinion, a carbon dioxide surgical laser with a computerized scanner is an effective therapeutic option for DPN.

