



PAEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

## A CASE OF LINEAR MORPHEA FOLLOWING THE LINES OF BLASCHKO IN A 6-YEAR-OLD GIRL

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**Background:** Morphea is an autoimmune disorder which leads to cutaneous sclerosis. Linear morphea, being the most common in children, may affect the limbs and is associated with a risk of deformity. Recently, it was shown that linear morphea follows the lines of Blaschko and may, therefore, be a result of genetic mosaicism that occurred during embryological development.

**Observation:** We report a case of a 6-year-old Chinese female who presented to our pediatric dermatology clinic with four indurated erythematous plaques. Three months prior, patient was evaluated by an outside dermatologist at which time she had one erythematous plaque on the left upper back which was biopsied. Histopathology showed thickened collagen bundles within the reticular dermis with a perivascular and interstitial mononuclear cell infiltrate, consistent with morphea. The patient was treated with topical calcipotriene without improvement and further development of three additional plaques which now involved her left upper back extending to the left upper extremity, the left flank, right upper chest/breast area and left anterior neck, all of which followed the lines of Blaschko. It was at this time the patient presented to our clinic. Given the patient's marked progression of disease, baseline laboratory testing (CBC, CMP, ESR, ANA, anti-Scl-70, anti-histone anti-RNP antibodies) and imaging studies were performed, all of which were within normal limits. The patient was started on oral prednisolone (1mg/kg), oral methotrexate (0.5mg/kg) and UVA phototherapy two to three times weekly. She demonstrated rapid improvement in her lesions within four weeks, with lessening of induration, hyperpigmentation, and no further progression.

**Key Message:** We highlight another case of linear morphea which follows the lines of Blaschko. Although the exact cause is not known, the Blaschkoid appearance of the lesions favors a genetic mosaicism which has yet to be elucidated.

