



PIGMENTATION

ERYTHROSIS PIGMENTOSA PERIBUCCALIS (EPP) - A REPORT ON 40 SOUTH INDIAN PATIENTS

J A Palanivel⁽¹⁾

Derme Cure Skin And Cosmetic Clinic, Dermatology And Cosmetology, Chennai, India⁽¹⁾

BACKGROUND: Erythrosis Pigmentosa Peribuccalis (EPP) - is a clinical entity which is rarely described in literature. It was first reported by Brocq in 1923. Since then, there were few papers with different nomenclature such as erythrosis pigmentaire faciale, erythrosis pigmentosa mediofacialis and erythrosis pigmentosa facie et colli. EPP appears as erythematous or pale-yellow to pigmented rough patches around mouth and nose. While, most reports were on Caucasian patients, this is the first report on EPP in 40 Asian patients.

OBSERVATION: We report EPP in 40 female patients with skin type III and above, who visited our centre between 2016 and 2017. We suspected EPP based on the clinical presentation as described by Brocq and other literature. The patients presented with chronic pigmented rough skin around mouth and around nasal area. Biopsy was not performed, as patients were concerned about scarring.

KEY MESSAGE: Sun-damage is considered as the major cause of EPP. Based upon the similarity in clinical presentation and presenting complaints in our patients, we have postulated hypothetical causes, which are not described in literature. We observed that EPP is associated with factors, such as climate, nutrition, hormones and lifestyle factors. As, we could comprehend the possible causes, we have proposed a management protocol for this chronic skin disease. Similar, to other reports, we noticed that EPP is therapy-resistant; however we could achieve a considerable reduction in pigmentation with use of sunscreens, non-hydroquinone de-pigmenting agents, dietary changes and lifestyle modifications. In view of inadequate literature, we assume that EPP is often misdiagnosed as skin tan or chloasma or seborrhoeic dermatitis, because of its overlapping features. We anticipate that more literature will emerge following our report, on EPP.

