



PIGMENTATION

## UNUSUAL PIGMENTATION

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A black man showed a curious pigmented macule on the index finger that expanded in a few months.

One year ago he submitted a graft operation on the same place of pigmentation because of a workplace injury. The macule appeared black, with irregular borders and it was characterized by a fast growth.

The spectrum of possible diagnosis included also melanoma, sustained by dermoscopic examination, although we recognize the difficulty to analyse people with black skin.

An important point to keep in mind when evaluating pigmented lesions is that dermoscopic features of melanoma in brown skin do not seem to differ from those in white skin and that the identification of "normal" dermoscopic patterns of acquired melanocytic nevi provides better diagnostic accuracy for melanoma in people with black skin.

It is known that incidence of cutaneous melanoma in blacks is low, and acral lentiginous melanoma presents up to 75% of this cancer in non Caucasian patients, but mortality is high because of advanced stage at the moment of diagnosis.

This case underlines that to make a correct diagnosis about pigmented lesions in blacks can be a diagnostic challenge for Caucasian clinician, moreover it underlines even now the necessary role of histopathological examination and anamnesis on the management of patient in "dermoscopic era".

