



PIGMENTATION

NEVUS DEPIGMENTOSUS AND IDIOPATHIC GUTTATE HYPOMELANOSIS

Hee Young KANG ⁽¹⁾

Ajou University School of Medicine, Dermatology, Suwon, Republic Of Korea ⁽¹⁾

Nevus depigmentosus (ND) is characterized by congenital or early onset hypopigmentation and a major differential diagnosis for segmental vitiligo. It usually occurs as an isolated or segmental patch with serrated borders. The pathomechanism of ND is explained by aberrant differentiation of melanocyte lineage during developmental stages. Diagnosis usually relies on clinical manifestations and less often techniques such as skin biopsy or in vivo reflectance confocal microscopy. For treatment, excimer laser have been attempted but showed high recurrence rate. Suction grafting showed variable results and possible recurrence.

Idiopathic guttate hypomelanosis (IGH) is a very common acquired hypopigmentation characterized by multiple small discrete white macules mostly on chronically sun-exposed areas. It usually affects the older population and the prevalence increases with age. IGH might be a manifestation of the cutaneous normal aging process, occurs as a result of chronic sun exposure or repeated microtrauma. The hypopigmentation is due to a decrease of melanocytes and melanin pigmentation. Studies have noted melanocytes undergoing a degenerative process and senescence. Treatments include the careful destruction of the lesions using liquid nitrogen or fractional lasers. Topical tretinoin and topical calcineurin inhibitor can be proposed.

