



DERMATOPATHOLOGY

A STUDY OF CLINICOPATHOLOGICAL CORRELATION OF 70 CASES OF FACIAL MELANOSIS AT A PRIVATE CLINIC IN SOUTH INDIA.

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Introduction: Facial melanosis is a group of diverse conditions causing dyspigmentation leading to visible cosmetic disfigurement and causing a significant impact on the patient psychologically. The exact etiology of most of these conditions are unknown and they pose quite a challenge for the treating dermatologist.

Objective: To study histopathological features of various facial melanosis (excluding melasma) and correlate clinically.

Materials and Methods: The study comprised of 70 patients willing for biopsy, of age above 16 years, attending the OPD over a span of two years. Detailed history was noted, clinical pictures taken and a skin biopsy was performed from the facial lesions. The microscopic findings in view of pattern of pigmentation, pigment incontinence, associated inflammatory changes in the dermis, epidermal and dermal changes were noted and the patients classified based on the typical histopathological changes of the disorder.

Result: Out of 70 patients, 30 (43%) had histopathological findings consistent with lichen planus pigmentosus, 10 (14.5%) had findings of Riehl's melanosis (pigmented cosmetic dermatitis), 4 (5.7%) of erythema dyschromium perstans, 4 (5.7%) of contact dermatitis, 4 (5.7%) of acanthosis nigricans, 2 (2.8%) of macular amyloidosis, 2 (2.8%) of seborrheic melanosis, 2 (2.8%) of ochronosis, 2 (2.8%) of post inflammatory hyperpigmentation and 10 (14.2%) weren't specific for any one of the above conditions.

Conclusion: The importance of histopathology is emphasized here as the underlying diseases have varying etiologies that need to be addressed in order to effectively treat the altered pigmentation. The utility of histology in establishing a diagnosis in cases of facial melanosis in patients with Fitzpatrick skin type IV and V is highlighted.

