



PIGMENTATION

NEVUS UNIUS LATERIS: A CASE REPORT

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Introduction: Verrucous epidermal nevi are benign hamartomatous proliferations that are present at birth or develop in early childhood. Most lesions consist of well-circumscribed, hyper-pigmented, papillomatous papules or plaques that are usually asymptomatic, frequently seen on the trunk, extremities or neck. Most commonly, epidermal nevi present as a single linear lesion, but sometimes multiple unilateral or bilateral linear plaques are seen. These lesions follow the lines of Blaschko and may have an abrupt midline demarcation.

Case report: A 21-year-old man, with no relevant medical history, was referred for evaluation of a verrucous lesion in the right inguinal region. Physical examination revealed extensive verrucous hyperpigmented plaques, with Blaschkoid distribution, affecting the right segment of the trunk and inguinal region, with an abrupt midline demarcation. These lesions developed during the first year of life. The patient had no systemic complaints.

Skin biopsy showed hyperkeratosis, acanthosis and papillomatosis, findings consistent with an epidermal nevus, which confirmed the clinical diagnosis of nevus unius lateris.

The lesions in the inguinal region were causing discomfort to the patient, therefore he was submitted to CO2 laser, with satisfactory results.

Discussion: Nevus unius lateris is a variant of the verrucous epidermal nevus, characterized by extensive unilateral plaques, often involving the trunk and extremities. It is thought to represent a form of cutaneous mosaicism, as a result of somatic mutations occurring very early in embryonic development.

Although rare, epidermal nevi can be associated with other developmental anomalies (most commonly involving the brain, eye and musculoskeletal system), a condition named epidermal nevus syndrome. Therefore, the presence of large or extensive epidermal nevi should prompt evaluation for potential involvement of other organ systems.

The present case is described given the rarity of this condition and the exuberance of the clinical presentation.

