

SPECKLED LENTIGINOUS NAEVUS

G Kalla, Saroj Purohit, Ashutosh Purohit, MCR Vyas

A case of speckled lentiginous naevus over face is reported in a 13-year-old girl due to its extreme rarity. The clinical diagnosis was confirmed histopathologically.

Key Words : Speckled, Lentiginous, Naevus

Introduction

Speckled lentiginous naevus is the preferred term for lesions composed of small dark hyperpigmented speckles, superimposed on a tan brown macular background.¹ Lesions are usually present at birth. They may have zosteriform or regional distribution. Malignant melanoma has been reported as a very rare complication.² The lesions have been reported to involve the face, head, trunk and upper and lower extremities.

Histopathological examination reveals a pigmented background area resembling lentigo simplex and speckled areas in it usually showing features of lentiginous naevus with lentigo like areas ranging from incipient naevi to junctional and even compound naevi.¹

Case Report

A 13-year-old girl reported with few dark hyperpigmented speckles near the lateral canthus of the left eye, present since birth. There was no history of similar lesions in any other family member. Examination revealed numerous hyperpigmented speckles on a tan brown macular background extending from lateral canthus of left eye to zygomatic ramus in the shape of an inverted triangle measuring approximately 2 inches in length and 2 inches in breadth. Mucous membranes and cutaneous examination were unremarkable.

Routine investigations and skiagram chest were normal. The patient was diagnosed as a case of speckled lentiginous naevus. Skin biopsy showed a mildly acanthotic epidermis. There were prominent single melanocytes in the basal layer, occasionally forming nests of melanocytes. There was no atypia of melanocytes. The lesion did not reveal progression to junctional or compound naevus (Fig.1).

Discussion

Speckled lentiginous naevus is a relatively uncommon condition. It consists of a tan macule, small or very large, which contains multiple brown-black speckles. It may be noted at birth or have its onset in early infancy or childhood. Similar cases have been reported as naevus spilus.³ The term zosteriform lentiginous naevus has also been used synonymously, but it is sometimes used for speckled lesions without the macular pigmentation.⁴ Finally, the term spotted grouped pigmented naevus has been used for a closely related lesion.⁵

There have been reports of malignant change in these lesions, so they need to be followed and closely observed for a long period of time. In view of the malignant potential, the relative rarity of the lesions and their cosmetic appearance, local excision is recommended.

References

1. Stewart DM, Altman J, Mehregan AH.

From the Department of Skin, STD and Leprosy, Medical College, Jodhpur, India.

Address correspondence to : Dr G Kalla



Fig. 1. Microphotograph from speckled area of lesion showing mild acanthosis with early nesting of melanocytes in the junctional zone; no atypia of melanocytes seen (H&Ex80).

Speckled lentiginous naevus. Arch Dermatol 1978; 114: 895-6.

2. Rhodes AR, Mihm MC Jr. Origin of cutaneous melanoma in a congenital dysplastic naevus spilus. Arch Dermatol 1990; 126: 500-5.
3. Cohen HJ, Munkin W, Frank SB. Naevus spilus. Arch Dermatol 1970; 102: 433-7.
4. Carmichael AJ, Tancy. Speckled compound naevus. Clin Exp Dermatol 1990; 15: 137-8.
5. Sato S, Kato H, Hidano A. Divided naevus spilus and divided form of spotted grouped pigmented naevus. J Cutan Pathol 1979; 6: 507-12.