

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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### ALOPECIA AREATA AND XEROSIS IN DOWN'S SYNDROME

*To the Editor,*

A 4 years and 9 months old girl reported with the history of repeated respiratory tract infection. On examination she had typical mongol face and congenital heart disease (VSD) with left to right shunt. Skin examination showed dry skin all over the body with loss of hair on four places of scalp. Diagnosis of Down's syndrome was established by clinical finding and karyo typing chromosomal analysis.

Alopecia areata occurs in Down's syndrome in older children<sup>1</sup>. In our patient alopecia areata started when child was 11 months old.

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### Reference

1. Carter DM, Jagosthosy BV. Alopecia areata and Down's syndrome. Arch Dermatol 1976; 112: 1397-9.

### SISTER MARY JOSEPH'S NODULE AS PRESENTING SIGN OF OVARIAN CARCINOMA

*To the Editor,*

Malignant tumours have the ability to grow at sites distant from the primary site of origin. The umbilicus is a characteristic site, especially from cancer of the stomach (Sister Mary Joseph's nodules).<sup>1</sup> A case of umbilical metastasis from ovarian carcinoma is reported here.

A female aged 40 years presented with lesions in the umbilicus since 4 months. Except history of menorrhagia, patient did not have any symptom of significance. On examination hard nodule with superficial erosion was found

in umbilical area. Per abdominal examination revealed an irregular slightly mobile, hard mass arising from pelvis in the left iliac fossa. Pervaginal examination confirmed our findings of pelvic mass. Routine haematological examination showed anaemia. USG of the abdomen revealed findings suggestive of bilateral serocystadenomatous ovarian carcinoma.

The so called Sister Mary Joseph's nodule is formed by localization of metastatic tumours to the umbilicus. Powell et al reviewed 85 cases of Sister Mary Joseph's nodule and found the most common primary sites to be stomach, large bowel, ovary and pancreas.<sup>2</sup>

Brustaman and Seltzer have reported seven cases of umbilical metastasis from gynaecologic malignancies.<sup>3</sup> Umbilical metastasis were the presenting symptoms in 18 out of 40 cases, and were a major diagnostic feature in 28 cases.<sup>4</sup>

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### References

1. Samitz MH. Umbilical metastasis from carcinoma of the stomach. Arch Dermatol 1975; 111:1478-9.
2. Powell FC, Cooper AJ, Mass MC, et al. Sister Mary Joseph's nodule: a clinical and histologic study. J Am Acad Dermatol 1984; 10:610-5.
3. Brustman L, Seltzer. Sister Joseph's nodule: seven cases of umbilical metastasis from gynaecologic malignancies. Gynaecol Oncology 1984; 19:155-62.
4. Steck WD, Helwig EB. Tumors of the umbilicus. Cancer 1965; 18:907-15.

### KYRLE'S DISEASE

*To the Editor,*

Kyrle's disease is a rare disorder of keratinization, first described by Kyrle in 1916. It usually presents as multiple hyperkeratotic