

NAEVUS PIGMENTOSUS ET PILOSUS *

BATHING TRUNK TYPE (Case Report)

By

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Naevus pigmentosus et pilosus is the hairy mole with abnormal growth of the hairs, light or deep pigmentation, usually coarse and of size varying from a barely visible spot to extensive areas which have earned the appellation "Bathing Trunk" or "Bathing Suit" naevus (Lewis and Wheller, 1967). Kernen and Ackerman (1960), in their clinicopathological study of 27 cases of juvenile melanoma which they labelled as spindle cell nevi and epitheloid cell nevi found only one case of nevus pigmentosus et pilosus. Rarity of extensive lesions of nevus pigmentosus et pilosus formed the basis of the present communication.

Case Report: A three year old girl was brought with the pigmented and hairy mole in the region of buttocks, genitalia and back. The chief complaint which brought her to seek opinion was infection in the region of buttock for the last 2 months.

Examination revealed a pigmented hairy mole in the region of the genitalia and inguinal region extending upwards to the lower part of abdomen and downwards to the upper one third of thighs on both sides (Fig. 1). View from the back showed an extensive lesion in the lower part of back, both gluteal regions and back of thighs on both sides (Fig. 2). The part of mole in the region of both glutei showed signs of abscess.

The patient presented to us with two problems, first of cosmetic and the other of infection. The opinion of surgeon was sought for removal of mole and skin grafting but extensive nature of the lesion did not permit us to do the same. The infection was treated with local nebasulf powder and systemic antibiotics.

Discussion: Naevus pigmentosus et pilosus may be seen at birth as a small macule having a definite outline or it may spring up at any time. The lesions vary in size, shape and colour from pink to dark brown or black. Small satellite spots may frequently surround the lesion as in the case of Canon cited by Andrews.

Hairy pigmented nevi particularly large ones commonly present hyperkeratotic features and are soft in texture. They may be flat or slightly elevated. They at times are surrounded by a white halo-'Leucoderma Acquisium Centrifugum' (Lewis and Wheeler, 1967). This may indicate that they are undergoing involution.

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Lesions of this type are basically benign and have been termed as "Juvenile Melanoma" (Spitz, 1948; Allen, 1953; Kernen and Ackerman, 1960). Melanoma may arise from hidden areas of junctional activity. Malignant changes in the mole should always be suspected when the lesion enlarges, darkens or bleeds, though at times these signs are seen without malignancy.

Plucking and injudicious handling of hairy mole should always be avoided otherwise they become infected resulting in swelling and irritation (Haber, 1962; Duperrat, 1954; Saunders, 1957). This was the presenting feature of the present case. Abscess so formed may be completely absorbed leaving behind remnants of hair follicles or provoke a foreign body reaction. Thus a granuloma is formed consisting of lymphocytes, histiocytes and giant cells. Disintegrated sebum gives rise to xanthomatous granules with numerous fat crystals. In such cases, hair shaft lies free or surrounded by foreign body giant cells. Polariscopic examination will show them as brightly illuminated bodies. Hair shaft obscured within foreign body granuloma can be demonstrated by Ziehl Neelsen stain as hard keratin has an affinity for carbol fuchsin. If the hair follicles are slightly damaged by epilation partial dislocation of them leads to impairment of blood supply followed by necrobiosis of their walls (Haber, 1962). Such necrotic follicles may calcify. Calcified follicles in turn undergo secondary bony metaplasia (Haber, 1961). This explains abscess formation in cases of Nevus Pigmentosus et Pilosus.

SUMMARY

A case of Naevus Pigmentosus et Pilosus is reported.

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