

DERMATOGLYPHICS IN NEUROFIBROMATOSIS

Distortion or alteration of dermatoglyphic patterns have been reported in certain skin disorders where inheritance is thought to play a major factor in the causation of these disorders. We studied dermatoglyphic patterns in 20 cases (15 males and 5 females) having neurofibromatosis and 50 healthy controls. Male controls had loops in 60% of fingers, whorls in 30.8% and arches in 9.2% while female controls had loops in 64%, whorls 29.2% and arches 6.8%. In 15 male patients having neurofibromatosis, loops were seen in 60 percent of fingers, whorls in 33.3 percent and arches in 6.6 percent. Five female patients had loops in 70 percent, whorls in 20 percent and arches in 10 percent of fingers. Arch pattern on 1st, 4th and 5th digits were not seen. Loops were commonly seen on 5th digit in both the sexes.

Saha¹ had reported predominance of loops in two cases of neurofibromatosis. One had all loops, the other had nine loops and one whorl. In the present study, only two cases showed loops in all the ten fingers. The differences in the patterns between neurofibromatosis and normals, were statistically not significant. Variation in the total ridge counts was also not significant.

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References

1. Saha KC : Preliminary observations on dermatoglyphics in genodermatoses, *Ind J Dermatol Venereol Leprol*, 1969; 14 : 18.