

CONGENITAL LEOPARD VITILIGO ASSOCIATED WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

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A 31-year-old Muslim male presented with congenital leopard vitiligo associated with multiple sclerosis. Five other family members had similar cutaneous lesions since birth. The disease appeared to be transmitted by autosomal dominant pattern with variable penetrance.

Key Words : Vitiligo, Congenital, Multiple Sclerosis

Introduction

Vitiligo is an acquired disease of pigmentation characterised by depigmented macule/patches surrounded by normal or hyperpigmented border. Sometimes it may be present since birth. Leopard vitiligo¹ is a clinical condition characterised by generalised patches of vitiligo intermingled with hyperpigmentation simulating leopard skin. Multiple sclerosis² is a demyelinating disease characterised by chronic inflammation, demyelination and gliosis of CNS probably autoimmune in origin, triggered by a viral infection in a genetically susceptible host.

Here we report a case of congenital leopard vitiligo associated with multiple sclerosis.

Case Report

A-31-year-old Muslim male was admitted in neurology ward of SMS Medical College Hospital with complaint of blurring of vision, photophobia and pain in right eye. After thorough fundus examination, EEG, X-Ray skull, and CT Scan, the patient was diagnosed as a case of multiple sclerosis. The patient was referred to dermatology department for cutaneous lesions. On examination there were multiple depigmented macular lesions

intermingled with hyperpigmented patches all over the body simulating leopard skin since birth. Skin biopsy from depigmented lesions was consistent with vitiligo. Urinary porphyrins were absent. Blood sugar, thyroid profile and VDRL were normal. 5 other closely related family members had similar type of lesions since birth without any associated illness. The trait appeared to be transmitted by autosomal dominant pattern.

Comments

Vitiligo and multiple sclerosis have autoimmune mechanism of genesis. In this case it seems that in genetically predisposed persons multiple clones of autoantibodies are found, some are directed against melanocytes and others against myelin basic protein leading to this association. Further, both appear to be transmitted by autosomal dominant pattern.

Vitiligo has been associated with multiple autoimmune conditions such as diabetes mellitus, pernicious anaemia, thyroiditis, Addison's disease, alopecia aerata and morphea.

References

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