

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOSE SIGN OF EXFOLIATIVE DERMATITIS

Exfoliative dermatitis, characterised by universal or almost universal chronic dermatitis with exfoliation is similar in almost all patients, though it can be caused by many aetiologic factors. Among 100 cases of exfoliative dermatitis seen by me within a period of 7 years, the nature of the primary disorder could be established in only 64, and these included psoriasis in 20, seborrhoeic dermatitis in 10, chronic eczematous dermatitis with generalization in 28, pityriasis rubra pilaris in 2, drug allergy in 3 and congenital ichthyosiform erythroderma in 1. The central part of the face was frequently spared alone, in the process of exfoliation and erythroderma in some of these cases. This made us study this feature in further detail. Among 100 patients, 78 showed this feature. Complete absence of erythema and scaling of

the skin of the nose and a variable extent of the peri-nasal area in the central part of the face in spite of having intense, generalised erythema and scaling in these patients was quite a striking feature. Though the clinical features of exfoliative dermatitis have been described in detail in the major text books of dermatology, nothing has been mentioned about this facial feature in exfoliative dermatitis. The exact mechanism of sparing of the central part of the face in exfoliative dermatitis is not known. We propose the term 'nose sign' for this hitherto undescribed feature seen in exfoliative dermatitis.

K Pavithran

Department of Skin and VD,
Medical College Hospital,
Kottayam-686 008.