

✓ TRICHOSTASIS SPINULOSA

(A CASE REPORT)

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Trichostasis spinulosa is a rare condition involving the lanugo hair. A case seen recently is reported below.

CASE REPORT

A 21 year old female patient presented with asymptomatic black dots on both here cheeks and nose (Fig. 1) present for the last few months. On close examination the black dots appeared to be small hairs which under the microscope were seen to be constituted by several lanugo hairs held together by a mass of keratin (Fig. 2).

In addition she had pitted scars on face from healed acneform lesions, seborrhoea capitis and a mild hyperkeratosis of soles. Hair on the scalp and elsewhere were normal.

DISCUSSION

The first case of Trichostasis Spinulosa was recorded by Galewsky in 1911. Franke (1912) described a similar case under the name "Pinsel haar". and "Bundel haar". Six cases were reported under the name of Trichostasis spinulosa by Nobl (1913) who gave a detailed clinical and histological description. Further cases have been reported under different names such as 'Lanugo comedonen' (Csillag*, 1913), 'Ichthyosis trysanotrichica' (Weidenfeld, 1913) and 'Keratosis spinulosa cum trichostasi' (Galewsky, 1922). Thereafter further cases have ^{been} reported by Mitcheil (1925), Burgess (1932), Leider (1950) and Ladany (1954).

The condition has been reported to occur more commonly in adult males, although a few cases in adult females have also been reported. It may involve the face (particularly the cheeks and nose), nape of neck, interscapular area of back, chest, abdomen and upper extremities. Usually there are no associated abnormalities, although Leider (1950) reported the occurrence of Trichorrhexis nodosa and Pili annulati in association with Trichostasis spinulosa.

The scarcity of the case reports reflects upon the rare occurrence of this condition, however the incidence may also depend upon the deligence with which this condition is sought.

The pathogenesis of this condition has been attributed either to the presence of multiple hair papillae or to the lack of shedding of the hair at the end of each hair cycle (Hochstetter, 1913; Burgess, 1932). This stasis of the hair has been attributed

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to hyper-keratosis of the hair follicle (Pillsbury et al, 1956). Demonstration of a keratin plug around the lanugo hairs, most of which showed formation of a club at their lower ends (Fig. 3) supports the views expressed by Pillsbury et al (1956).

SUMMARY

✓ A case of Trichostasis spinulosa in a 21 year old female patient involving both cheeks and nose is reported. It is suggested that this condition is caused by lack of shedding of the lanugo hairs at the end of the hair cycle. ✓

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