

Acanthosis Nigricans with Atypical Localization

Sir,

Acanthosis nigricans has a predilection for intertriginous areas such as the neck, groin and axillae. We report a case where the lesions occurred on the sulcus alaris nasi and sulcus mentolabialis and which was diagnosed as benign acanthosis nigricans.

CASE REPORT

A 14-year-old boy presented to the outpatient polyclinic of dermatology with a 6-month history of hyperpigmentation and thickness on the chin and at the side of the nose. There was no family history. No relevant medication had been taken during the past 6 months.

There were no abnormal findings on physical examination. He weighed 55 kg and measured 160 cm in height. His chronological and skeletal ages were within normal limits. Dermatological examination revealed brownish-black hyperpigmented patches covered with papillomatous elevations on his sulcus alaris nasi and sulcus mentolabialis (Fig. 1).

Routine hematologic and urine analyses, including full blood count, serum chemistry, plasma glucose and plasma protein electrophoresis, were within normal limits. Thyroid function tests were also within normal limits. Fasting insulin level was 18.3 $\mu\text{U}/\text{ml}$ (normal range 5–20 $\mu\text{U}/\text{ml}$). HbA_{1c} testing was not performed.

The clinical diagnosis of acanthosis nigricans was confirmed by histopathologic examination of a skin biopsy which showed hyperkeratosis, papillomatosis, acanthosis and lymphoid cell infiltration into the superficial dermis.

The sites most commonly involved in acanthosis nigricans are the axillae, the back and sides of the neck, the anogenital region and the groin although the other flexures, the submammary region, the umbilicus and, in some cases, almost all of the skin may be affected (1). The unusual localization in this case may be because the face can be a flexural area.

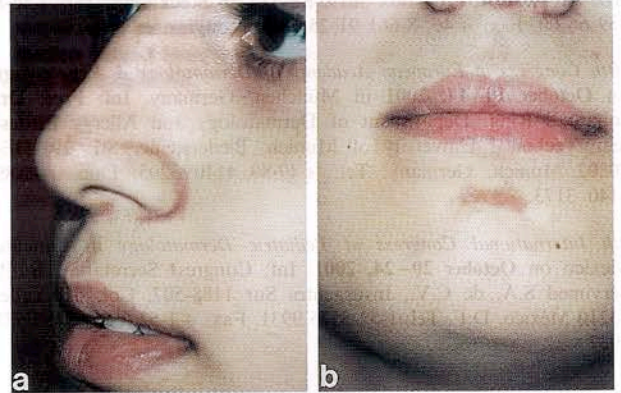


Fig. 1. Lesions on the (a) sulcus alaris nasi; (b) sulcus mentolabialis.

REFERENCE

- Griffiths WAD, Judge MR, Leigh IM. Disorders of keratinization. In: Champion RH, Burton JL, Burns DA, Breatnach SM, eds. Textbook of dermatology, 6th edition. Oxford: Blackwell Science, 1998: 1483–1588.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

First World Congress of Dermascopy in Rome, Italy on **February 23–25, 2001**. Inf: Dr H. Peter Soyer, Congress Secretary, Department of Dermatology, University of Graz, Auenbruggerplatz 8, A-8036 Graz, Austria. Tel: +43 316 385 3235. Fax: +43 316 385 4957. peter.soyer@kfunigraz.ac.at.

59th Annual Meeting of the AAD in Washington, USA on **March 2–7, 2001**.

Annual Meeting of British Society for Investigative Dermatology in Warwick, UK on **April 11, 2001**. Inf: Dr NJ Reynolds, University Department of Dermatology, Medical School, Framlington Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4HH, UK. Tel: +44-191 2228936. Fax: +44 1912227094. n.j.reynolds@ncl.ac.uk.

XXIIth Course of Pediatric Dermatology in Arcachon, France on **April 17–20, 2001**. Inf: Secrétariat, Unité de Dermatologie Pédiatrique, Hôpital Pellegrin Enfants, F-33076 Bordeaux Cedex, France. alain.taieb@dermatol.u-bordeaux2.fr.

Quality of Cosmetics: An Explosive Myth? in Stockholm, Sweden on **May 7–9, 2001**. Inf: Stockholm Convention Bureau, PO Box 6911, S-102 39 Stockholm, Sweden. Tel: +46 8 7361500. Fax: +46 8 348441. IFSCC.2001@stocon.se.

29th Nordic Congress of Dermatology and Venereology in Göteborg, Sweden on **June 7–10, 2001**. Inf: Prof Olle Larkö, Department of Dermatology, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, SE-413 45 Göteborg, Sweden. Fax: +46-31 821871.

International Dermato-Epidemiology Association (IDEA) Annual Meeting in Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands on **June 12–13, 2001**. Inf: Jan Nico Bouwes Bavinck, Department of Dermatology, Leiden University Medical Centre, PB 9600, 2300 RC Leiden, The Netherlands. Fax: +31-50361 2624. j.bavinck@knmg.nl.

8th World Congress on Cancer of the Skin in Zürich, Switzerland on **July 18–21, 2001**. Inf: Maron Lüthi, Congress Secretariat, department of Dermatology, University Hospital, CH-8091 Zürich, Switzerland. Tel +41 12552507. Fax: +41 12558988. luethim@derm.unizh.ch. www.skincancer.ch

Satellite Meeting in Skin Immunology (in connection to 11th Congress of Immunology) in Stockholm, Sweden on **July 21–22, 2001**. Inf: Klas Nordlind, Department of Dermatology, Karolinska Hospital, SE-171 76 Stockholm, Sweden. Fax: +46 851777851. klas.nordlind@ks.se.

European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR) in Stockholm, Sweden on **September 20–22, 2001**. Inf: Prof. Mona Ståhle-Bäckdahl,