

Images in clinical medicine



Congenital melanocytic nevus of the face: a clinical image

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Congenital melanocytic nevus of the face: a clinical image

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A 49-year-old female presented with a congenital pigmented lesion involving the right hemiface since birth. The lesion gradually enlarged during childhood and adolescence and stabilized in adulthood. She denied ulceration, bleeding, or pain but reported significant psychosocial distress due to facial disfigurement. During adolescence, she was advised laser ablation; however, owing to financial constraints, she underwent only a single session that resulted in a faint hypopigmented patch along the superior margin of the lesion, with further treatment discontinued. Clinical examination revealed an extensive, well-

demarcated, hyperpigmented plaque with irregular thickening and coarse terminal hypertrichosis extending from the periorbital to the mandibular region. No satellite nevi were observed. Neurological and systemic examinations were remarkable, and visual and oral functions were preserved. Based on characteristic morphology and distribution, a clinical diagnosis of Giant Congenital Melanocytic Nevus (GCMN) was made. Different diagnoses included Becker's nevus, nevus sebaceous, and epidermal nevus. The patient declined biopsy and opted for conservative follow-

up. GCMN- defined as a congenital melanocytic nevus exceeding 20cm in projected adult diameter- is rare, with an estimated incidence of 1 in 20,0 live births. It carries a lifetime melanoma risk of 5-10% and may be associated with neurocutaneous melanosis. Management is done cosmetically and functionally critical regions demand individualized, multidisciplinary surveillance and long-term follow-up.



Figure 1: extensive, well-circumscribed hyperpigmented plaque with irregular thickening and terminal hypertrichosis, involving the right periorbital, malar, and mandibular regions; a faint hypopigmented area over the right cheek reflects a previous attempt at laser ablation (giant congenital melanocytic nevus)