



## Case 1

A congenital lesion on the lower back of a 25-year-old woman has gradually become thicker and darker with age.

### *What is the diagnosis?*

Linear epidermal nevus. This is a benign, congenital lesion consisting of epidermal hyperkeratosis, which results in a warty consistency. Extensive involvement of the skin is termed epidermal nevus syndrome.

### *Are there any associated problems?*

Other congenital, cutaneous lesions may be present (*i.e.*, sebaceous nevus, nevus comedonicus, café-au-lait spots, hemangiomas, and abnormal pigmentation). The epidermal nevus syndrome may be associated with skeletal, ocular, or central nervous system abnormalities.

Provided by Dr. Elizabeth O'Brien, Montreal, Quebec.

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*The Canadian Journal of CME*

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### Case 2

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A previously healthy, 35-year-old male developed an asymptomatic, disseminated eruption, consisting of smooth, 2 mm to 4 mm yellowish, erythematous papules, on his trunk and extremities.

***What is the diagnosis?***

Eruptive xanthomas.

***What is the cause?***

These benign papules are caused by primary or secondary hypertriglyceridemia. They may also be seen in Types I, IV, or V hyperlipidemia.

Predisposing factors include familial hyperlipidemia, diabetes mellitus, obesity, alcohol abuse, and medications including estrogens, retinoids, and olanzapine.

***How is it treated?***

Treating the underlying cause and reducing hyperlipidemia results in the spontaneous resolution of the papules.

Provided by Dr. Elizabeth O'Brien, Montreal, Quebec.



### Case 3

A two-week-old infant is noted to have a gap in the gum corresponding to an area between the future upper incisors.

***What is the diagnosis?***

Diastema.

***What is the significance?***

Diastema is a developmental gap between the maxillary central incisors; it may be secondary to a thick maxillary frenulum. The gap tends to close with the full eruption of the maxillary permanent canines and atrophy of the maxillary frenulum, regardless of whether a frenectomy is performed at an earlier age (it would occur faster if a frenectomy is performed).

Provided by Dr. Alexander K.C. Leung and Dr. Alexander G. Leong, Calgary, Alberta.



## Case 4

An eight-year-old boy develops a yellowish, painful lesion on the buccal mucosa of the lower lip. He had a dental operation the previous day.

### *What is the diagnosis?*

Traumatic ulceration of the buccal mucosa.

### *What is the significance?*

Traumatic ulceration of the buccal mucosa may result from lip or cheek biting following an inferior alveolar nerve block. The lesion usually heals up spontaneously, but secondary bacterial infection may require treatment with an antibiotic.

Provided by Dr. Alexander K.C. Leung and Dr. Alexander G. Leong, Calgary, Alberta.

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