

Hyperpigmentation on the Face

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A 16-month-old Chinese boy presents with hyperpigmentation on the left side of his face. He also has scleral pigmentation in the lateral aspect of the left eye. There is no family history of a similar condition. Maternal health was unremarkable and his mother was not taking any medication during the pregnancy.

What is your Diagnosis?

Nevus of Ota (oculodermal melanocytosis) is characterized by melanocytic hyperpigmentation of the skin in the area supplied by the ophthalmic and maxillary divisions of the trigeminal nerve with frequent ipsilateral ocular pigmentation. In oculodermal melanocytosis, the scleral pigmentation is present at birth or shortly thereafter. The cutaneous pigmentation is present at birth or shortly thereafter in approximately 50% of affected individuals, and in the remainder, the pigmentation appears by the second decade of life.

Bilateral skin involvement is seen in approximately 5% of cases. Ipsilateral scleral melanocytosis is found in approximately two-thirds of cases. Nevus of Ota is more common in persons of Asian



Figure 1: Hyperpigmentation on the Face

and African descent and is rare in Caucasians. The male to female ratio is approximately 1:4. Nevus of Ito is a variant of nevus of Ota, in which the skin pigmentation occurs in the acromioclavicular region and is more diffuse and less mottled.

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