‘Hanging Curtain’ Sign in Pityriasis rosea

S.		Dhar
A.J.		Kanwar
S.		Handa

Department of Dermatology, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India

Dr. A.J. Kanwar, Department of Dermatology, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh 160012 (India)

A few fascinating signs characterize different dermatologic disorders, i.e. the capet tack sign in discoid lupus erythematosus, the dimple sign in dermatofibroma and the ‘nose

Fig. 1. Schematic diagram showing a typical medallion lesion of PR with scales attached at the margin and free at the centre.

sign’ recently described by us in a couple of dermatoses [1]. We herein describe a sign recently observed by us in patients with pityriasis rosea (PR).

Fig. 2. Schematic diagram showing infolding of a lesion along its long axis (arrows) mimicking a hanging curtain.

A collarette of scales attached at the margin with a clear centre characterizes a typical medallion lesion of PR [2] (fig. 1). When the skin is stretched across the long axis of a medallion lesion of

PR, the scales being finer, lighter and attached at one end tend to fold across the line of stretch (fig. 2). This gives the appearance of a hanging curtain which is also attached at one end (hanging string) and hangs with multiple folds along its long axis, gravitational force being the stretch factor.

The diagnosis of PR tends to be missed when only the herald patch is present, when lesions are few or the peripheral collarette of scales is not clearly distinguishable. In such circumstances this sign helps to diagnose PR and sufficiently excludes other closely similar conditions.

References

Kanwar AJ, Dhar S, Ghosh S: 'Nose sign' in Dermatology. *Dermatology* 1993; 187:278. Highet AS, Kurtz J: Viral infections; in Champion RH, Burton JL, Ebling FJG (eds): *Textbook of Dermatology*. Oxford, Blackwell, 1992, vol 2, pp 948-951.