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Dermatosis Papulosa Nigra

E.

van Dijk

Amsterdam

Author's address: Dr. E. van Dijk, Department of Dermatology, Free University Hospital, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Because of the migration of many people nowadays a number of diseases are observed in Europe, which normally do not occur in this part of the world. This may cause diagnostic difficulties.

We observed a 12-year-old Negro boy, born in Suriname, who has had for half a year a number of small brown-black shiny papules of the face, neck and the upper part of the trunk. Some of these papules showed a central depression, out of which on pressure a small quantity of fatty substance could be obtained. The diagnoses acne vulgaris and mollusca contagiosa did not apply to this eruption; study of the literature made it clear that the diagnosis had to be dermatosis papulosa nigra.

Two months later we observed a second patient, a 35-year-old Negro from Suriname, with the same eruption, consisting of some dozens of papules of the face and the upper part of the trunk; a number of older papules on the back of the trunk had a verrucous appearance.

Neither patient had subjective complaints. The histologic changes of a papule of the boy were only slight; in the adult patient changes were seen as in seborrheic keratosis, with pronounced melanin pigmentation.

Dermatosis papulosa nigra is a condition which appears quite frequently among Negroes; the frequency of occurrence and the number of papules tend to increase in older people. Not only in Negroes, but also in Vietnamese, Indo-Malayan and American-Indian people has the condition been observed. The cause of this benign eruption is unknown; Hairston et al. believe that it should be classified within the group of epithelial nevi.

Summary Dermatosis papulosa nigra was observed in two Negroes from Suriname.

Zusammenfassung

Es wird fiber 2 Fälle von dermatosis papulosa nigra berichtet bei Negeren aus Surinam.

Resume

L'auteur décrit 2 cas de dermatosis papulosa nigra dans nègres de Suriname.

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