Becker naevus

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ABSTRACT

A 22 years old young male, presented with a large hyperpigmented (brown) patch involving the right upper back, right shoulder and predominantly extensor aspect of right arm with hypertrichosis, which started developing about 3 years ago. A diagnosis of Becker naevus was made. It is an androgen dependent lesion, being more frequent in males and mostly appears at or after puberty. No treatment is effective.

Key words: Becker naevus, hypertrichosis, laser

A 22-year-old young male presented with darkening of the skin of the right upper back, shoulder, and arm [Figure 1a and b]. He was apparently well about 3 years ago, when he first noticed a dark patch on his right shoulder, which gradually increased in dimensions to assume the present size. He also complained of increased hair growth on the dark patches. He was evaluated and a large hyperpigmented (brown) patch involving the right upper back, right shoulder, and predominantly extensor aspect of right arm with hypertrichosis was seen. A diagnosis of Becker naevus was made.

Becker naevus, also known as Becker melanosis, is a benign condition, first described by Becker in 1948 [1]. It is an androgen dependent lesion, being more frequent in males and mostly appears at or after puberty. The upper trunk and the

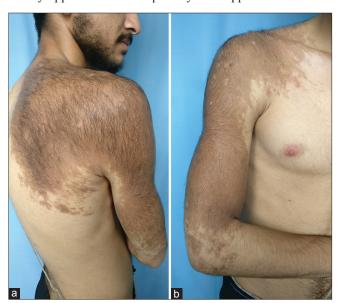


Figure 1 (a) Hyperpigmented (brown) patch involving the right upper back and right shoulder. (b) Hyperpigmented (brown) patch involving the right shoulder and predominantly extensor aspect of right arm

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scapular regions are the common sites. Hypertrichosis may not always be present. Rarely, it may be a part of Becker naevus syndrome. Naevus of Ito is an important differential diagnosis, which can be easily differentiated on histopathological examination. No treatment is effective. A combination of long-pulsed Nd:Yag and alexandrite laser has shown good results [2].

References

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Consent

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Competing Interests

The author declares that he has no competing interests.

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