

A case of Becker's melanosis on the forehead: a rare presentation

Um caso de melanose de Becker na fronte: uma apresentação rara

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A previously healthy 23-year-old male patient presented with a brown spot on his forehead, first noticed at the age of 13, with no reported changes in the previous years. A sharply well-circumscribed 60 × 30 mm light brown patch on the right forehead with no hypertrichosis was noted (Fig. 1A). There was no firmness, palpable mass, or tenderness on palpation. Dermoscopy revealed a homogeneous melanocytic lesion with a faint reticular pattern and perifollicular hypopigmentation (Figs. 1B and 1C). Histopathological examination showed acanthosis and increased pigmentation in the basal layer of the epidermis. Based on clinical, dermoscopic, and histological findings, Becker's melanosis was diagnosed. Laser therapy was offered; however, the patient refused. Becker's melanosis, also known as Becker's nevus, is a relatively common benign cutaneous hamartoma with epidermal or dermal elements¹. It is clinically characterized by well-circumscribed, unilateral, acquired hyperpigmentation, usually first noticed around puberty and more prevalent in males². Although it is most frequently seen in the shoulder, scapular area, and upper extremity, it can be seen

anywhere². When Becker melanosis is referred to as Becker nevus syndrome, it may occasionally be linked to developmental abnormalities like ipsilateral breast hypoplasia, extra nipples, aplasia of the pectoralis major muscle, and other musculoskeletal and spine abnormalities³. The differential diagnosis of Becker melanosis includes congenital melanocytic nevus, congenital smooth muscle hamartoma, plexiform neurofibroma, post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation, and café-au-lait macules^{2,4}. Diagnosis is mainly clinical; however, a skin biopsy can be helpful to support the diagnosis of Becker's melanosis, mainly when dealing with atypical presentations.

Facial Becker nevus is not widespread and hypertrichosis does not always accompany it. There is a need for larger studies on whether this case is associated with any anomaly and its prevalence. The purpose of reporting our case is to remind and emphasize that Becker's nevus may be outside of the usual areas and should be kept in mind in the differential diagnosis of hyperpigmented, sharply demarcated spots on the face.

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Received: 26-05-2023

Accepted: 29-07-2023

DOI: 10.24875/PJDV.23000045

Available online: 29-08-2023

Port J Dermatol and Venereol. 2024;82(1):75-76

www.portuguesejournalofdermatology.com

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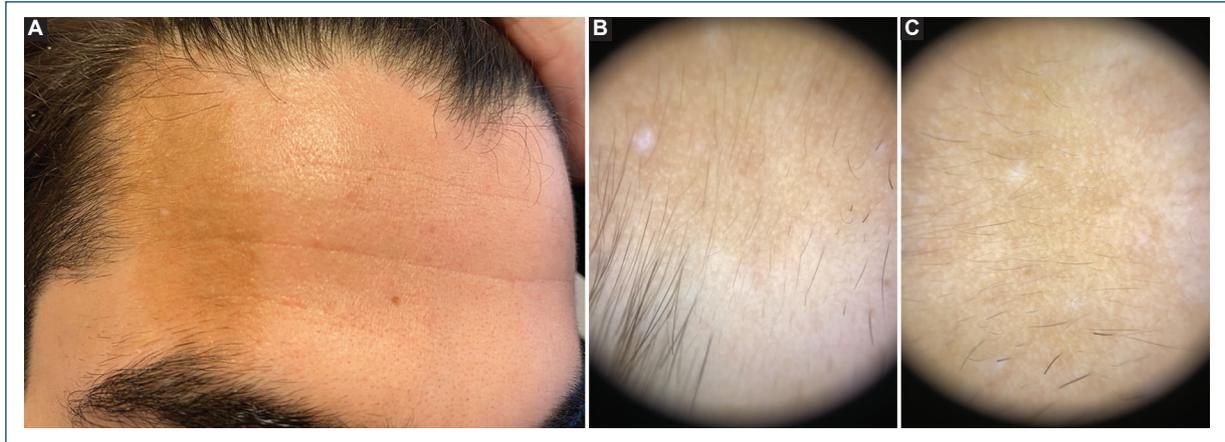


Figure 1. **A:** a sharply circumscribed 60 × 30 mm light brown patch on the right forehead. **B and C:** dermoscopy (dermlite DL4 polarized mode) showed a faint reticular pattern of pigmentation, perifollicular hypopigmentation, and a sharply demarcated unstructured white area (biopsy site).

Funding

None.

Conflicts of interest

None.

Ethical disclosures

Protection of human and animal subjects. The authors declare that no experiments were performed on humans or animals for this study.

Confidentiality of data. The authors declare that they have followed the protocols of their work center on the publication of patient data.

Right to privacy and informed consent. The authors have obtained the written informed consent of

the patients or subjects mentioned in the article. The corresponding author is in possession of this document.

Use of artificial intelligence for generating text.

The authors declare that they have not used any type of generative artificial intelligence for the writing of this manuscript, nor for the creation of images, graphics, tables, or their corresponding captions.

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