

## Trichostasis spinulosa: An overlooked entity

Kikkeri Narayanasetty Naveen, Suraj R. Shetty

Department of  
Dermatology,  
Sri Dharmasthala  
Manjunatheshwara  
College of Medical  
Sciences and Hospital,  
Sattur, Dharwad,  
Karnataka, India

A 50-year-old female visited our department for the treatment of rosacea. Dermatological examination revealed erythematous papules and plaques over both cheeks. Black macules were found on the nose [Figure 1], but the patient was not worried about the lesions. Dermoscopic ( $\times 25$  and  $\times 60$ ) examination revealed that the black macules were vellus hairs [Figure 2]. The hairs were plucked and observed under dermascope which showed multiple vellus hairs bundled in a funnel-like structure [Figure 3]. The above findings were suggestive of trichostasis spinulosa (TS). Patient refused treatment for the lesions.

TS is a very common but unrecognized disorder of pilosebaceous unit. It is a midfacial disease that occurs in younger age in female patients with Fitzpatrick skin type III or higher. It may also occur in light-skinned older people with excessive ultraviolet-exposure.<sup>[1,2]</sup>

TS was first recognized by the German dermatologist Felix Franke in 1901, who named it "Pinselhaar" (paintbrush hair). In 1913, Noble first coined the term "trichostasis spinulosa."<sup>[1]</sup> The exact etiology of this disease is not known. Abnormal angulation of the hair follicle may lead to the entrapment of vellus hairs. Follicular hyperkeratosis of a dilated vellus hair follicle leading to retention of successive telogen hairs is another explanation. Number of retained hairs may range from 5 to 60.<sup>[1,2]</sup>

TS occurs sporadically, but many trigger factors have been identified. These include topical minoxidil, topical steroids, chronic renal failure, dust, oils, ultraviolet light, heat, and irritants.<sup>[1,2]</sup>

Two variants of TS have been described: Nonpruritic type, which is classical and often seen in the elderly as asymptomatic blackhead-like lesions located on the face. The other variant is the pruritic type, characterized by multiple



Figure 1: Multiple black macules on nose

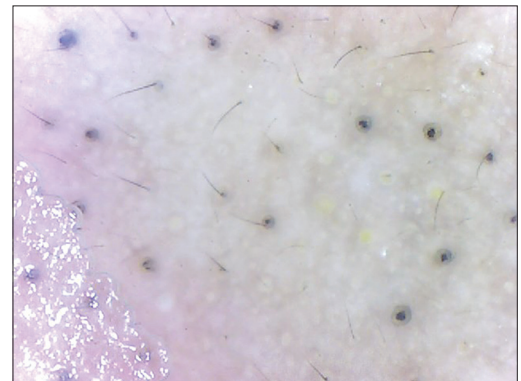


Figure 2: Dermoscopic ( $\times 25$  and  $\times 60$ ) examination revealing vellus hairs



Figure 3: Plucked hairs observed under dermascope ( $\times 25$  and  $\times 60$ ) showing multiple vellus hairs bundled in a funnel-like structure

Access this article online

Website: [www.idoj.in](http://www.idoj.in)

DOI: 10.4103/2229-5178.146195

Quick Response Code:



### Address for correspondence:

Dr. Kikkeri Narayanasetty Naveen, Department of Dermatology, No 10, Skin OPD, Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara College of Medical Sciences and Hospital, Sattur, Dharwad - 580 009, Karnataka, India.  
E-mail: [naveenkn80@yahoo.com](mailto:naveenkn80@yahoo.com)

pinhead-sized papules on the trunk and upper extremities in young adults.<sup>[3]</sup> The present case is a classical type with the involvement of nose.

Various modalities of treatment are tried with variable results which includes emollients, hydroactive adhesive tapes, local keratolytics, local and oral retinoids.<sup>[1]</sup> Repeated peeling with capryloyl salicylic acid has given good result.<sup>[2]</sup>

Herein we present a classical case of TS to increase the awareness of this common disease.

## REFERENCES

1. Gutte RM. Itchy black hair bristles on back. *Int J Trichology* 2012;4:285-6.
2. Wollina U. Trichostasis spinulosa-successful treatment by repeated peeling with capryloyl salicylic acid. *J Clin Exp Dermatol Res* 2012;3:2.
3. Strobos MA, Jonkman MF. Trichostasis spinulosa: Itchy follicular papules in young adults. *Int J Dermatol* 2002;41:643-6.

**Cite this article as:** Naveen KN, Shetty SR. Trichostasis spinulosa: An overlooked entity. *Indian Dermatol Online J* 2014;5:132-3.

**Source of Support:** Nil, **Conflict of Interest:** None declared.