

Unilateral Nevus of Ota with Palatal and Optic Disc Pigmentation with Coincidental Preauricular Tag- A Case Report

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ABSTRACT

Nevus of Ota also known as oculodermal melanosis presents as hyperpigmentation of face involving ophthalmic and maxillary branches of trigeminal nerve associated with ocular hyperpigmentation. It is due to confinement of melanocytes in the dermis. Most commonly it is unilateral but sometimes it may have bilateral presentation. Typically, it presents at birth but can also be an acquired condition. Frequently seen in Japanese and rarely in Indian subcontinent. It has more predilection towards females. Less frequently, hyperpigmentation is seen in other sites like oral mucosa, tympanum and nasal mucosa. These patients are at high risk of developing glaucoma and malignancy. The author reported a case of 12-year-old male child with unilateral pigmentation of left side face involving forehead, periorbital and cheek, along with ocular pigmentation. Hyperpigmentation of conjunctiva, iris and angles is present in left eye with intraocular pressure being normal in both eyes. Fundus showing optic disc pigmentation in the left eye with cup disc asymmetry in both eyes. Child has coexistent preauricular tag on the left side.

Keywords: Congenital, Heterochromia iridis, Ocular pigmentation

CASE REPORT

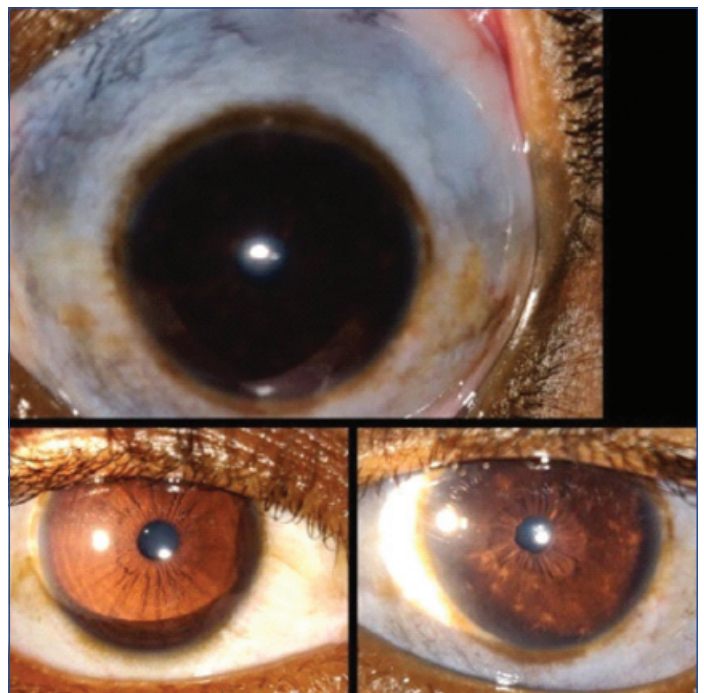
A 12-year-old male child presented with complaints of abdominal pain since 3 days to Paediatric Department where the child was admitted and further evaluation was done. Child was referred to ophthalmology in view of ocular pigmentation. History of bluish discoloration on the left side of face involving forehead, periorbital and malar areas with pigmentation of conjunctiva of left eye was present, since birth [Table/Fig-1]. It was non-progressive. No history of trauma, infections, convulsions, drug intake, exposure to radiation or any other treatment. Antenatal, natal and postnatal history was uneventful. No history of developmental delay. No evidence of pigmentation on other sites of body.

in right eye and 14 mm of Hg in left eye. Gonioscopy revealed open angles in both eyes with hyperpigmentation of angles in the left eye.

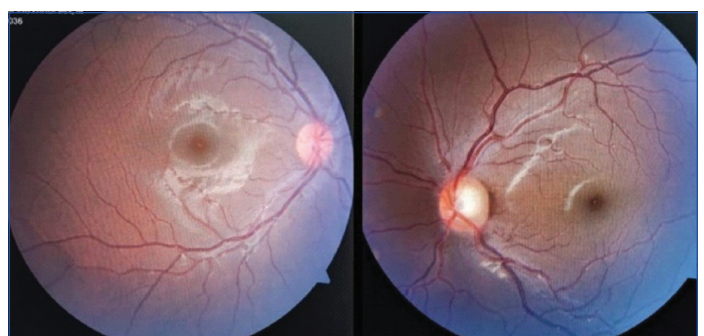


[Table/Fig-1]: Hyperpigmentation on left side of face.

On ophthalmological examination, right eye anterior segment was normal. Left eye showed bluish pigmentation in the periorbital area extending onto the cheeks, with conjunctival pigmentation and heterochromia iridis while other findings being normal [Table/Fig-2]. Posterior segment showed cup disc ratio of 0.2:1 in the right eye and 0.5:1 with mild pigmentation on the disc in the left eye with periphery being normal in both eyes [Table/Fig-3]. Visual acuity in both eyes was 20/20. Intraocular Pressure (IOP) being 12 mm of Hg



[Table/Fig-2]: Conjunctival pigmentation of left eye with heterochromia iridis.



[Table/Fig-3]: Left optic disc pigmentation with cup disc asymmetry in both eyes.

Extraocular examination showed preauricular tag on the left side. Oral examination showed mild palatal pigmentation on the left side [Table/Fig-4]. Child was referred to glaucoma specialist and dermatologist.



[Table/Fig-4]: Palatal pigmentation and pre-auricular tag.

Taking into consideration of other differentials like sturge weber syndrome, blue nevus, drug induced hyperpigmentation and café-au-lait spots were ruled out.

Sturge weber has typical port wine stain, majority present with history of seizures, where as in this case it's a dark pigmentation with absent history of seizure. Blue nevus presents as small, well defined plaques or papules which can present anywhere over the body. Drug induced hyperpigmentation is due to intake of drugs like amiodrone, minocycline, gold and can be seen anywhere on the body. Café-au-lait spots also present in the other sites of the body with axillary freckling and cutaneous nodules, which were absent in this case. The typical feature of scleral pigmentation is not seen in above conditions. Based on the history, clinical findings and dermatological conjecture and ruling out the differentials, a diagnosis of Nevus of ota was made.

DISCUSSION

Nevus of ota, also called as oculomucodermal melanosis is the bluish pigmentation of skin and ocular structures. It usually involves the

face along the distribution of ophthalmic and maxillary branches of trigeminal nerve. It appears because of confinement of melanocytes in the superficial layers of dermis. It was described by Hulke in 1861 and in 1939 it was first observed in a Chinese patient by Pusey. Masao Ota, a Japanese dermatologist was the first person to name this condition as "Nevus fuscicerulus ophthalmomaxillaris" in 1939 which subsequently came to be called as "Nevus of Ota" [1,2]. It is largely seen in Asian population with an incidence of 0.014-0.034%. Typically, it is unilateral though sometimes bilateral presentation may be seen. Most commonly, it is congenital but can be acquired during adulthood or pregnancy. It has slow progression and usually stabilises by adulthood. It is predominantly seen in females than males with a ratio of 5:1. The pathogenesis is multifactorial. Sometimes predisposing factors like infections, genetics, UV light exposure, trauma or female sex hormones may be the cause in acquired conditions [3]. Ocular pigmentation is seen in eyelids, sclera, cornea, iris and retina. Occasionally, other sites like tympanum (55%), pharynx (25%), nasal mucosa (30%) and palate (20%) are also involved [4]. Though various classifications were proposed, clinical classification given by Tanino H is commonly followed [2].

In ocular pigmentation, conjunctival and iris pigmentation are most evident. In few studies, they have described the iris pigmentation as mammillations of iris, a distinctive feature in oculodermal melanocytosis [5]. They present as small and smooth nodules which are distributed homogenously. Few studies reported that patients with angle pigmentation have high risk of developing raised intraocular pressure and glaucoma later. In a study, it was mentioned that pathogenesis of glaucoma could be either because of angle abnormality due to abnormal neural crest cells or obstruction of trabecular meshwork due to melanocytes [5].

Oral pigmentation has been reported by some authors. It can involve either buccal mucosa or palate. Based on literature research till now, 51 cases have been reported with intraoral involvement worldwide including the present report [6-9]. Present case is about 23rd case with palatal involvement in India [Table-Fig-5] [3,4,7-16].

There are few studies which reported palatal pigmentation, but optic disc pigmentation with disc cupping has been reported in very few cases till now. Few reports have mentioned about the fundus pigment mottling as a feature but reports showing optic disc pigmentation were rare [10-12]. According to literature, till now 11 cases of optic disc pigmentation including the present case were reported worldwide. In India, about 3 cases reported till date including the present one [10-12]. In this case, preauricular tag was coincidentally noticed.

The possible differentials for nevus of ota could be sturge weber syndrome, blue nevus, melasma, café-au-lait spots of

Authors	Age/sex	Cutaneous	Sclera	Hetero chromia iridis	Angles	Fundus	Optic disc	Disc cupping	Intraoral
Maguire J and Holt D [8]	48/F	U/L	+	-	-	-	-	-	Buccal mucosa, Palate
Acaba-Berocal LA et al., [15]	51/M	U/L	+	+	-	-	-	-	-
Syed MA et al., [7]	22/F	B/L	+	-	-	-	-	-	Palate
Maheshwari R et al., [3]	23/F	U/L	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Solanki J et al., [13]	56/M	U/L	+	-	-	-	-	-	Palate
Mukhopadhyay AK [4]	24/M	U/L + Shoulder	+	-	-	-	-	-	Palate
Borra K [9]	30/F	U/L	+	-	-	-	-	-	Palate
Cronemberger S et al., [10]	14 cases	14	14	8	8	6	1	5	1 Palate
Kono T et al., [11]	16 cases	U/L15, B/L1	16	-	-	-	3	-	-
Swan PG [12]	29/F	B/L	+	-	-	+	-	-	-
Rishi P et al., [14]	18/F	U/L	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Gupta GP and Gangwar DN [16]	5/M	Scalp pigment	+	+	-	+	+	-	-
	52/F	U/L	+	+	+	+	+	-	-
Present case	12/M	U/L	+	+	+	-	+	+	Palate

[Table/Fig-5]: Comparison of various case reports of Nevus of ota with pigment distribution [3,4,7-16].

+Present; -Absent; U/L- Unilateral; B/L- Bilateral; F- Female; M-Male

neurofibromatosis, actinic lentigo and drug induced pigmentation. Melasma is pregnancy associated with bilateral presentation and absent palatal and fundus pigmentation [3]. Others like Mongolian spot where spot is usually seen in lumbosacral area and resolves by the age of 3-6 years, with absent pigmentation on face. Differential for oral pigmentation can be oral melanotic macule which is small in size and is not associated with scleral pigmentation [13].

Ocular complications are predominantly glaucoma (10%) and melanoma (1 in 400) [14]. Patients with angle pigmentation are at high risk of developing glaucoma in future. The risk of uveal melanoma increases with oculodermal melanocytosis. A 3% of patients with uveal melanoma have oculodermal melanosis which is thought to be the precursor of malignancy. The risk of uveal melanoma metastasis in these patients is 1.6 times more than with those without oculodermal melanocytosis [15].

CONCLUSION(S)

This report is an infrequent case of nevus of ota with palatal pigmentation and optic disc pigmentation. Even though, the probability of developing glaucoma and malignancy is less, it would be prudent to advise an annual follow-up and screening for these two conditions by an ophthalmologist and if needed by dermatologist. Based on the clinical presentation with preauricular tag, it is assumed that nevus of ota could be part of bigger picture, probably an unidentified syndromic presentation.

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