Clinical Image

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Isolated nevus unius lateralis in a patient from Uganda

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A 5-year-old male presented to our global health outreach clinic in Uganda in May 2018 for discoloration affecting the entire left side of his body since infancy. Cutaneous examination revealed unilateral distributed linear bands of skin-colored to dark-brown verrucous papules coalescing into plaques following Blaschko lines on the face, trunk, and extremities (Figures 1 and 2). Further examination revealed that the patient did not suffer from seizures, developmental delay, or visual and auditory disturbances. The history and clinical findings were most consistent with nevus unius lateralis.

Figure 1: Linear bands of skin-colored to dark-brown verrucous papules coalescing into plaques following Blaschko lines on the face, trunk, and upper extremity.

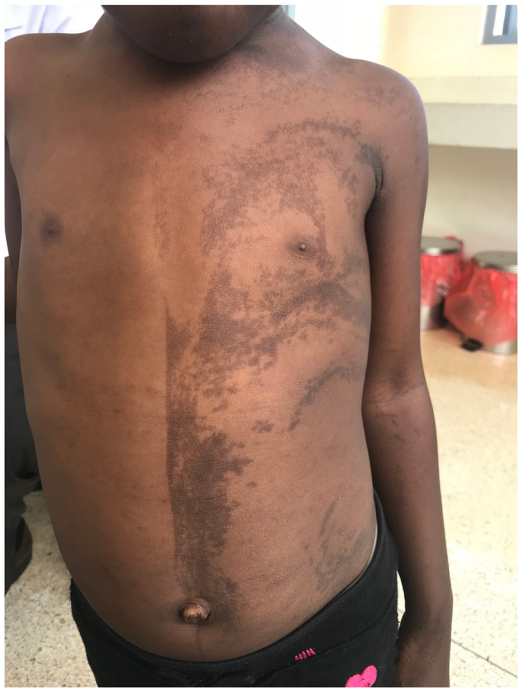

Figure 2: Linear bands of skin-colored to dark-brown verrucous papules coalescing into plaques following Blaschko lines on the face, trunk, and upper extremity with sharp demarcation at midline.

Nevus unius lateralis is a rare clinical variant of systematized epidermal nevus with an estimated prevalence of one in one million [1]. Patients classically present during infancy with linear patches or thin skin-colored to brown verrucous papules coalescing into plaques and typically darken and thicken around puberty. The lesions are commonly distributed on only one-half of the trunk and extremities following lines of Blaschko. The etiology is unknown, however gene mutations in FGFR3, HRAS, or PIK3CA may be involved [2]. While the diagnosis is made clinically, a biopsy may be useful to rule out additional causes of verrucous lesions following lines of Blaschko. The diagnosis is important for clinicians to recognize as it is

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rarely an isolated finding and may be associated with developmental delay, central nervous system tumors, seizure disorders, and auditory and visual deficiencies [2]. Treatment of the cutaneous lesions is challenging. Destructive therapy with ablative lasers or systemic therapy with oral retinoids have been utilized with variable success [2, 3].

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Competing interests: None reported.

Informed consent: A parent of the patient described in this report provided written informed consent.

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