Nevus Depigmentosus

Introduction

Nevus Depigmentosus (nevus achromicus) is a rare congenital pigmentary disorder. It is a depigmentation problem in skin which can be easily differentiated from vitiligo. Nevus anemicus is a congenital vascular anomaly that presents clinically as a hypo pigmented macule or patch.

The pathogenesis of ND is not fully understood. It is believed to be due to a functional defect of melanocytes with morphological abnormalities of melanosomes. It is also said to be a form of cutaneous mosaicism wherein an altered clone of melanocyte have a decreased ability to synthesize melanin and transport to keratinocytes.

Symptoms

These are localized white spots on skin which may affect any area of the body, but these white spots are quite stable lesions. In the majority of patients, the lesions are not completely achromatic, but are hypo-pigmented and resemble splashed paint. The individual lesions are permanent and there are no effective therapies for re-pigmenting this nevus. If there is hair in an affected area, it is usually colorless or white.

Treatment

Different therapeutic modalities have been attempted to re-pigment the lesions of nevus de-pigmentosus such as PUVA, Excimer laser, and different grafting techniques. As far as treatment is considered, mostly it does not require any as it is non-progressive and adequate counseling is sufficient to allay fears about the condition especially among parents concerned about their affected child. Optional treatment modalities include Cosmetic camouflage (especially for lesions on uncovered parts of the body), psoralen-ultraviolet-A therapy, suction blister grafting [1-6].

References