



DERMATOPATHOLOGY

HISTOPATHOLOGIC FEATURES OF RIEHL'S MELANOSIS

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Background: Histological features of Riehl's melanosis have rarely been compared between lesional and perilesional normal skin, and have not been well showed by quantitative or immunohistochemical analysis.

Objective: To investigate the histopathological features of lesional and perilesional normal skin from patients with Riehl's melanosis, and compared them using immunohistochemical staining.

Materials and Methods: We retrospectively evaluated the medical records and skin biopsy specimens of 48 patients with Riehl's melanosis. Hematoxylin and eosin stain, Fontana-Masson stain and immunohistochemical stainings were performed including Melan-A, NKI/beteb, and microphthalmia-associated transcription factor (MITF).

Results: Increased melanin pigment were observed in the dermis of lesional skin of Riehl's melanosis. Although the difference was statistically insignificant, melanin pigment was increased in lesional epidermis. And the number of melanocytes and their activity were significantly increased in lesional epidermis. Although the severity was lower, pigmentary incontinence, basal cell liquefaction, dilated vessels, colloid bodies were found not only in the lesion but also in the perilesional normal skin.

Conclusions: Riehl's melanosis is a disease of increased epidermal melanocytes and increased pigmentation in both epidermis and dermis, along with a histologically typical interface change. Unlike other pigmentary diseases, it is noteworthy that a large number of asymptomatic perilesional skin also have typical histopathologic changes in Riehl's melanosis although the degree is weak.

