



GLOBAL SKIN HEALTH

CASES OF SPARING PHENOMENON IN DERMATOLOGY

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Background: Sparing phenomenon in dermatology pose diagnostic and therapeutic challenges. Few cases have been reported in literature.

We are aware of few conditions like sparing of grey hair in alopecia areata, deck chair sign with sparing of the natural skin folds, resembling the slats of a deck chair in papuloerythroderma of Ofuji. Sparing of the nose and the paranasal area is described in exfoliative dermatitis, air-borne contact dermatitis, polymorphic light eruption, severe atopic dermatitis.

Observation: We describe two cases of sparing phenomenon wherein drug reaction is seen to spare infective lesions. This is known as an atopic phenomenon where there is modulation of inflammatory response of one dermatoses by another unrelated cutaneous infection at the same site.

Case 1: known case of Hansen's disease developed generalised hyperpigmentation due to chloroquine with conspicuous sparing of leprosy patches.

Case 2: case of varicella developed bullous drug reaction to acyclovir with striking sparing of lesions of varicella. Very few cases of bullous drug reaction to acyclovir have been reported.

Key message: Various case reports describing sparing phenomenon have been described. Cases of leprosy patches being spared in rash with ampicillin, dapsone and steroid acne have been reported. There have been reports of viral exanthem, acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis, polymorphous light eruption, and irritant contact dermatitis sparing sites affected with tinea versicolor.

Sparing phenomenon still remains an enigma with unresolved questions.

Different mechanisms explaining this phenomenon have been described.

It is important to identify these conditions which may pose diagnostic challenges.

