



PAEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

ACTINIC LICHEN PLANUS IN CHILDREN: OUR EXPERIENCE THROUGH 10 CASES.

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Background: Actinic lichen planus (ALP) is a rare photodistributed variant of lichen planus that most often occurs in young adults, uncommonly in children.

Objective: To review clinical and histological features, treatment and outcome of childhood ALP.

Materials and Methods: A retrospective, descriptive study was conducted in the department of dermatology of Sfax hospital over a period of 24 years (1995–2018). The diagnosis of ALP in children (< 18 years) was based on clinical and histological findings.

Results: Ten cases of ALP were included. Our patients were 7 boys and 3 girls with a mean age of 13.5 years (range, 6–18). Lesions appeared in spring or summer in 8 cases. The eruption was distributed over sun-exposed areas, with particular predilection for the face (80%) followed by upper limb (20%). There were no lesions affecting covered areas, oral mucosa, hair or nails. Lesions were asymptomatic (90%) or mildly pruritic (10%). The annular form was found in 8 cases (80%), the pigmented melasma-like form in 2 cases (20%). Cheilitis was associated in 3 cases (30%). There was no history of a preceding skin inflammation and no medication or photosensitizing substances were taken in any of the cases. The histopathologic feature consisted of a lichenoid dermatitis. Treatment consisted in photoprotection in all the patients. Antimalarial drugs were used in 6 patients (60%) and topical steroids in 4 cases (40%). Evolution was favorable in 5 cases (50%). Residual cicatricial pigmented lesions were noted in 4 patients. Disease relapsed was noted in one child after treatment interruption.

Conclusions: Our study highlights the specific features of ALP. ALP can be rarely seen during childhood. Our series represents the largest case series reported in Tunisian children.

