

Skin and Seizures: Tuberous Sclerosis Complex, A Pictorial Essay

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A 23 y/o male was brought to our Emergency Department after having a seizure. He was alert and his vital signs were stable. He is known to have epilepsy and is on regular anti-epileptic medication for three years. He is being followed up at a neighborhood medical center at his native village . On physical examination numerous brown papules were seen over his nose and both cheeks in a butterfly pattern which correspond to facial angiofibromas (Figure 1). Ash Leaf Hypomelanotic macules were seen over his extremities (Figure 2). Few hyperpigmented café au lait macules were observed over his trunk (Figure 3). A big fibroma was also seen over his scalp (Figure 4). Areas of thick leathery texture of orange peel known as Shagreen patches were observed on back (Figure 5).

Figure 1: Facial angiofibromas



Figure 2: Ash Leaf spot



Figure 3: Cafe au lait macule



Figure 4: Scalp fibroma



Figure 5: Shagreen patch



A Brain CT scan revealed multiple subependymal giant cell astrocytomas. Laboratory investigations were normal.

This patient was clinically diagnosed as Tuberous Sclerosis Complex having a myriad of skin lesions.¹

Tuberous sclerosis complex is an autosomal-dominant, neurocutaneous, multisystem disorder characterized by cellular hyperplasia and tissue dysplasia.² Seizures are commonly encountered in Emergency Room however, conspicuous lesions as described above must alert the physician to guide the patient for a multidisciplinary approach.³

Competing Interests

None declared

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