

Dermoscopy of pseudoxanthoma elasticum

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DESCRIPTION

A 22-year-old woman presented with complaints of gradually progressive yellowish asymptomatic papules coalescing to form plaques over the lateral aspects of the neck since last 3 years. There were no associated systemic complaints. No similar complaints were noted in any of the family members. Systemic examination was normal while mucocutaneous examination revealed the presence of symmetrically distributed yellowish monomorphic papules arranged in a linear and reticulate manner on both sides of the neck, axillae and periumbilical area (figure 1). These plaques were confluent at most of the places, occasionally studded with telangiectasias and had a pebble-like feel on palpation with poor elastic recoil. Polarised light dermoscopy at $\times 10$ magnification of these plaques showed multiple irregular yellowish areas alternating with multiple linear vessels. These yellowish plaques coalesced to form parallel strands (figure 2A). The fundus examination was within normal limits except diffuse pigmentary degeneration (figure 2B). The routine urine and stool examination revealed no occult blood, and echocardiography was normal. Histological evaluation of the plaque showed multiple fragmented, clumped, short, curled, basophilic elastic fibres in the mid-dermis in a ravelled ball appearance (figure 2C,D).¹ A final diagnosis of pseudoxanthoma elasticum (PXE) was made. Similar dermoscopic findings have been

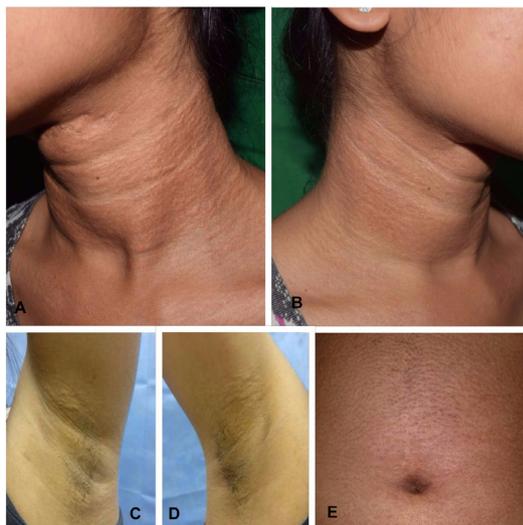


Figure 1 Clinical examination showing yellow papules coalescing to form plaques over both sides of the neck, bilateral axillae and periumbilical area.

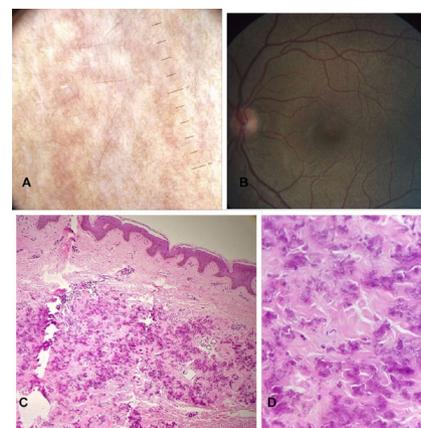


Figure 2 (A) Dermoscopic view ($\times 10$) of pseudoxanthoma elasticum showing linearly arranged yellowish strands intermingled with linear vessels. (B) Fundoscopic view showing absence of angioid streaks. (C, D) Histological photomicrograph (H&E; $\times 10$, $\times 40$) showing multiple short, curled, basophilic elastic fibres in the mid-dermis.

observed by Lacarrubba *et al.*² PXE is a rare hereditary disease affecting connective tissue and causing mineralisation of elastic fibres in the skin, eyes, cardiovascular system and digestive system with an incidence of 1 in 50 000 people.³ We propose that dermoscopy could be a useful tool for a non-invasive prompt diagnosis of PXE for early detection and intervention.

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Competing interests None declared.

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