

LENTIGINOSIS IN QUADRANT DISTRIBUTION. SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT WITH ARGON LASER

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SUMMARY

A 34-year-old woman with numerous lentigines in a quadrant distribution scattered over the lower right portion of her body is presented. Removal of multiple lentigines may be crucial. A safe and effective method for the removal of multiple lentigines is shown. Differential diagnoses of this unusual distribution pattern of lentigines are discussed. Argon laser treatment has been initiated for the management of this pigmentary disorder for cosmetic reasons. Lentigines faded within 4 weeks after application of 2 to 4 argon laser light impulses each.

Quadrant distribution of skin lesions represents a rare pattern due to mosaicism in early embryogenesis. Treatment of lentigines with argon laser can be regarded as an effective approach in the management of multiple lentigines leading to an excellent cosmetic result.

KEY WORDS

lentiginosis, treatment, argon laser

INTRODUCTION

Simple lentigines are clinically characterized as small, rather sharply circumscribed brownish-black macules on otherwise regular skin. They are generally regarded as precursors of junctional melanocytic nevi (1,2). Usually simple lentigines appear scattered over trunk and extremities of younger individuals with increased susceptibility to sunburn. Besides this classical pattern, numerous simple lentigines may rarely occur in peculiar distributions, namely generalized (e.g. leopard syndrome), grouped (agminated),

or segmental (zosteriform) (Tab. 1) (3-8). These unusual variants of lentigines, commonly called lentiginosis, should be clearly distinguished from lentiginous lesions arising on the diffuse brownish background of a preexisting nevus (e.g. speckled nevus) (9).

We report on a female presenting multiple simple lentigines and four melanocytic nevi scattered over the lower right quadrant of her body with special emphasis on the treatment modalities.

