



**DIABETIC DERMOPATHY**

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A 52 year old male type 2 diabetes mellitus patient having diabetes since 9 years on oral hypoglycemic agents & hypertension 8 years on irregular treatment, was admitted for control of blood sugar & hypertension. On examination he was conscious, oriented, BMI 26.5kg/mm<sup>2</sup>, BP 160/90 mmHg, Pulse rate 90/min, regular with no special character, Temp afebrile, no cyanosis, JVP normal with mild edema feet. There was no history of trauma to legs. Examination of chest, CVS and abdomen was unremarkable. CNS examination was normal except sensory motor neuropathy. The peripheral vessels were nonpalpable. Fundus examination revealed changes suggestive of proliferative retinopathy. In addition to hypertension, he was diagnosed to be a case of diabetes mellitus with complications of neuropathy, retinopathy and peripheral vascular disease. Dermatological examination revealed bilateral hyperpigmented oval to round macules of 0.5 to 3.0 cm with asymmetrical distribution on the extensor surface of both the lower limbs (Fig 1) establishing the diagnosis of diabetic dermopathy(DD). Diabetic dermopathy(DD) affects 12.5% to 40% of all diabetes both type1 and type2 diabetes.<sup>[1]</sup> It is asymptomatic except for a cosmetic disfigurement. However these patients have increased prevalence of neuropathy, nephropathy, retinopathy and large vessel disease. Histologically lesions show edema of the papillary dermis, thickened, superficial blood vessels, extravasation of erythrocytes and a mild lymphocytic infiltrate.<sup>[2]</sup> The extravasated erythrocytes leave haemosiderin deposits, which lead to brownish hyperpigmentation. The lesions of diabetic dermopathy resolve spontaneously leaving scars behind.<sup>[3,4]</sup> No effective treatment is known. Other synonyms for this condition are “shin spots” and “Pigmented pre-tibial Patches”.<sup>[5]</sup>



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