Dear Editor

The dermatoscopy is a technique used for dermatologists as a diagnostic tool and also to monitor the response to treatments. Although this non-invasive imaging set has been used over decades, new applications have arisen such as preoperative evaluation of tumor margins, monitoring the response of topical treatments and post-treatment follow-up. In this work, I comment on the latest articles regarding the new diagnostic and therapeutic applications of dermatoscopy.

Article 1: In this report, authors suggest that before they develop the unequivocal asymmetry, the diagnosis of small melanoma can make earlier by detecting the presence of pseudopods/lines radial with dermatoscopy [1].

Article 2: This statement focused on melanonychia and nail plate. Authors intend to guide health care providers on the use of dermatoscopy in the management of nail pigmentation in order to choose the most appropriate treatment [2].

Article 3: This is a retrospective study of 22 Basosquamous Carcinomas (BSC) to analyze the dermoscopic features of these diseases. Authors conclude that BSC shows overlapping features of both Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC) and Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC), suggesting that when one dermoscopic criterion of both BCC and SCC is found, suspicion of BSC should be considered. This fact avoids the delayed diagnosis of this potential aggressive tumor [3].

Article 4: In this work, authors described the differences in the dermoscopic vascular patterns between psoriasis and pityriasis rubra pilaris, which are two entities that can be clinically misdiagnosed with unaided eye [4].

Article 5: Authors in this article showed the unique dermoscopic findings of ochronosis which differentiate it from melasma. These characteristic features are useful to make the correct diagnosis, avoiding invasive diagnostic biopsy [5].

Article 6: The aim of this work is to evaluate the efficacy of intralesional corticosteroid in alopecia areata by detecting with dermatoscopy, the early signs of favorable clinical response. Sixty patients were included in the study and were treated with steroids every four weeks. Authors concluded that dermatoscopy is a useful tool to identify the early signs of hair regrowth such as tapering hairs and black dots [6].

Article 7: In this report, authors describe the dermoscopic changes in nevi of a 24 year old patient who performed autoinjections of a drug having alpha MSH-like effects. Authors were aware that the observed dermoscopic changes can make difficult to differentiate nevi from melanoma [7].

Article 8: This interesting work presents the case of patient with dynamic changes in melanocytic nevi documented by sequential dermatoscopy during vemurafenib therapy. First, papillomatous nevi involuted. Second, preexisting nevi increased in size. Finally, multiple new nevi occurred [8].

Article 9: The aim of this work is to evaluate the utility of dermatoscopy for assessing the response to therapy and recurrence of Bowen Disease (BD). Twenty-nine BD from 23 patients were included in the study. After treatment, dermatoscopy revealed the disappearance of pre-existing vascular structures in 16 lesions, while those structures remained in 13 lesions. Authors concluded that dermatoscopy is a reliable and useful tool in the follow-up of BD as when vascular structures persist, it is associated with residual disease, while when vascular structures disappear, the disease can be considered as cured [9].

Article 10: In this work, authors compared the assessment of preoperative margins using digital dermatoscopy versus using clinical evaluation. Ninety four patients with Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SSC) were included in the study. In 46 patients, the margins were determined by clinical evaluation, while 48 patients by dermatoscopy evaluation. In the first group, margins were positive in eight patients (17%), while in three patients (6%) in the second. Authors conclude that dermatoscopy is an effective and non-invasive method to determine the margins prior surgery of SCC [10].

These 10 articles highlighted that dermatoscopy is an interesting tool to be used in daily practice, not only as a diagnostic method, but also as monitoring way to assess the response to topical therapies and to perform accurate post-treatment follow-up.

References


*Corresponding author: Husein Husein-ElAhmed H, Department of Dermatology, Hospital de Baza, Granada, Spain, E-mail: huseinelahmed@hotmail.com

Received Date: June 02, 2017, Accepted Date: June 26, 2017, Published Date: July 06, 2017.

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