

AN UNUSUAL CASE OF ACNE KELOID

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Chazi Leprosarium, Morogoro, Tanganyika.

A police constable, aged 20 years, was referred to this leprosarium for diagnosis in May 1962. He gave a history of bilateral swelling of the ears of about three months' duration, not associated with pains or irritation.

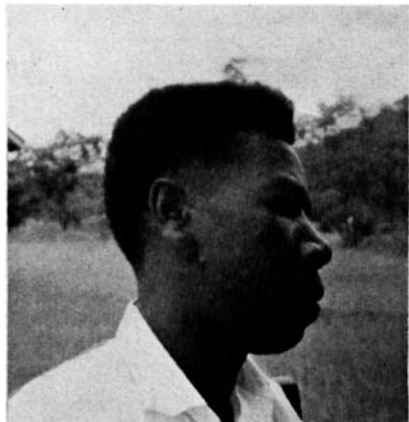
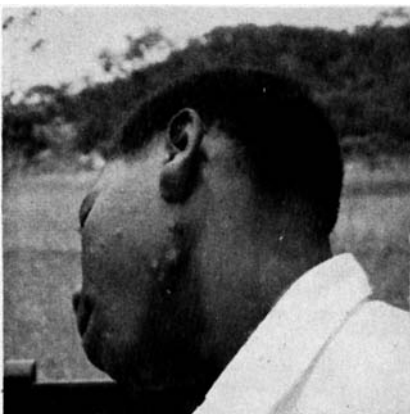
The findings on examination were:

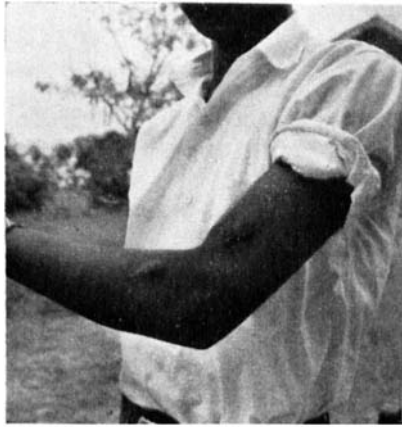
1. Acne Vulgaris of the face, with keloid scarring over the jaws.
2. Very hard nodular swellings of both ear lobes similar in size and shape.
3. Two keloid scars of the left arm, which the patient stated were the result of injury some years ago.
4. Skin scrapings were negative for *M. leprae*.

Acne Keloid, as seen in African dermatological practice, is usually situated on the neck (CLARKE, 1959) but SIMONS (1952) illustrates a case with a keloid, due to acne vulgaris, on the nose.

Other conditions considered were:

1. Sporotrichosis, to which the lesions of the jaw bore a superficial resemblance. No fungal elements were found and there was no history of exposure to infection (A. GONZALEZ OCHOA, 1953).
2. Chondroma, excluded on the history and the nature of the swellings.
3. Lepromatous Leprosy was, of course, excluded by the absence of any typical lesions and negative skin scrapings.





It may be of interest to record that, although one frequently sees keloid scarring in patients with tuberculoid and near tuberculoid leprosy, particularly following the local application of indigenous remedies (usually vegetable caustics) I cannot recall seeing keloid in a lepromatous case. This is perhaps not surprising when one considers the absence of foreign body reaction in lepromatous leprosy.

Acknowledgement

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References

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OCHOA, A. GONZALES (1953). *Handbook of Tropical Dermatology and Medical Mycology*, Vol. II, p. 1329. (Edited by R. D. G. Ph. Simons).
SIMONS, R. D. G. PH. (1952). *Ibid.*, Vol. I, Fig. 23, p. 40.