

Hypertrichosis Terminalis with Simian Characteristics

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This is a brief record of an isolated case which appears to be a form of hypertrichosis, known as hypertrichosis terminalis with simian characteristics (Fig.). This anomaly does not conform with hypertrichosis universalis congenita, though there is persistence and excessive growth of lanugo.

While examining colour vision among Nulias, a fishing community of Orissa, a North-Eastern State of India, an isolated case with the following characteristics was met with in a 50-year-old Nulia woman. She is an illegitimate daughter of a normal mother; she is unmarried but had an illegitimate female baby who died after a few days.

The defect is characterized by excessive growth of hair on all parts of the skin excepting chest, palms, and soles, since birth. Excessive hair is also present on cheeks, both sides of the ears, chin, forehead, on the ear-rims, forearms, back, and on the legs. She also has a beard and moustache. Hair is also present on the tip and the root of the saddle-shaped nose with wide nostrils. She has very thick eyebrows and a male voice. There is also an out-growth of the upper gum which is enormously protruded and gives a most grotesque appearance. It has also been reported that this outgrowth was in rudimentary form at birth and has increased in size with the growth of the patient. The lower dentition is normal but the upper one is not visible as it is covered by the outgrowth of the gum.

As cited by Cockayne (1933), the occurrence of similar abnormalities has been reported earlier from

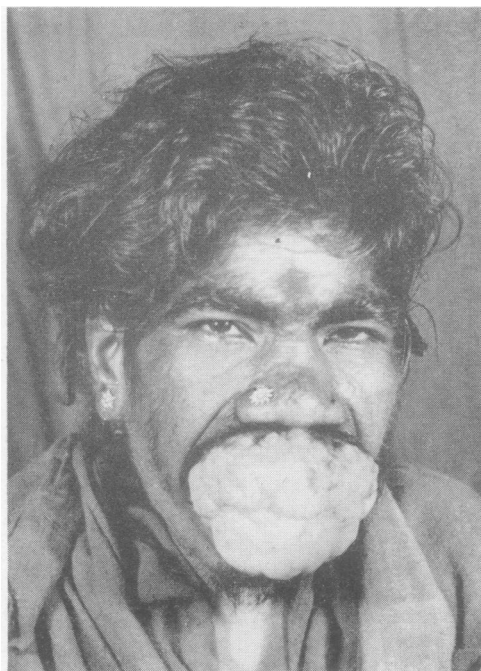


FIG. Photograph showing hypertrichosis and out-growth from upper gum.

Europe and Mexico (Fauvelle, 1886; Double and Houssay, 1912).

REFERENCE

Cockayne, E. A. (1933). *Inherited Abnormalities of the Skin and its Appendages*, pp. 248-249. Oxford University Press, London.

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