

LASER SURGERY IN TREATMENT OF PIGMENTAL NEVUS

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Pigmental nevi are benign proliferations present at birth that consists of cells normally present in skin. Many of these lesions are disfiguring and a psychosocial impairment. Because of location or extent of the lesion, surgical incisions of nevus may have a defect without favorable reconstructive opinions. Laser ablation of such lesions has been used by several clinicians. Although good results may be achieved with laser ablations of the lesions, laser treatment modalities for pigmental nevi remain controversial because of the potential for malignancy. Different pigmental nevus are distinguished, they include; Mongolian spots - usually are bluish and appear as bruises. They often appear on the buttocks or lower back, but they sometimes also appear on the trunk or arms. The spots are seen most often in people who have darker skin. Pigmented nevi - usually are flesh-colored, brown or black. They can appear anywhere on the skin, alone or in groups. They occur when cells in the skin grow in a cluster instead of being spread throughout the skin. Congenital nevi - are moles that are present at birth. These birthmark shave a slightly increased risk of becoming skin cancer, depending on their size. Larger congenital nevi have a great risk of developing skin cancer than do smaller congenital nevi. Cafe-au-lait spots - are light tan or light brown spots that are oval in shape. They usually appear at birth but may develop in the first few years of a child's life. Cafe-au-lait spots may be a normal type of birthmark, but the presence of several cafe-au-lait spots larger than a quarter may occur in neurofibromatosis (a genetic disorder that causes abnormal cell growth of nerve tissues) and other conditions. CO2 laser can be used to treat the above mentioned.

AIM: To improve results of surgical treatment of pigmental nevus by using high-CO2 laser.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: CO2 laser was used in treatment of 36 patients with pigmental nevus consisting of 20 males and 16 females with age ranges from 16 - 60 years.

RESULTS: CO2 laser is the first and has been the gold standard in skin re-surfacing for many years as it achieves unparallel smoothness and reduction of scars that no other modality can match. It is capable of more dramatic corrections by removing layers of skin down to a deeper level, but with a longer downtime and contracts skin immediately with blood clotting ability. The advantages of laser: minimal operative bleeding due to coagulation of blood vessels minors to 2mm in diameter, reduced post operative pain, increased accuracy of the surgical wound, quick post operative healing . In patients whom laser was used for excision of pigmental nevi under local anesthesia, bleeding was absent during operation, injury of surrounding tissues was minimal and healing of wound was during 7-10 days without complications.

CONCLUSION: Treatment of pigmental nevus with CO2 laser is an effective method of surgical treatment of benign tumors of the skin.