

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Epidermodysplasia verruciformis (EV) is a rare familial skin disease first described by lewandowsky and Lutz in 1922. It is characterized by long standing, widespread flat wart-like lesions and macular pityriasis versicolor-like lesions. The disease usually begins in childhood around the age of six years.

EV is caused by certain types of human papilloma viruses (HPV) and to the present, more than 15 types of HPV have been isolated from the lesions of EV. The causative HPVs include types 3,5,8,9,10,12,14,15,17 and 19-24. The most common virus found in EV lesions is HPV-5.

HPVs are DNA viruses which cannot be easily cultured, and thus little is known about its growth patterns, immunology and metabolism.

The most remarkable characteristic of patients with EV is, the frequent development of skin cancers at relatively young ages. This is usually occur in sunexposed skin in about 30% of patients.

stratum granulosum were swollen and vacuolated to various degree.

2- By electron microscopy of EV lesions, viral particles which appeared to belong to the papova group, were found in the nucleus of the cells of the stratum granulosum, stratum corneum and sometimes in the upper layer of stratum spinosum.

3- Some features suggesting neoplasia were found e.g. irregular nuclear shape, poor heterochromatin and mitosis.

Many factors are involved in HPV-induced carcinogenesis suggested by the relatively long period of time between the onset of benign lesions and the onset of cancer in EV patients. Among these factors, virus, genetics, immunity and sunlight.

The electron microscopy provides a direct method for diagnosing viral groups or families and the specific members of these families.

Negatives staining studies show the papillomaviruses isolated from the lesions to be approximately 50 nm. in diameter, icosahedral and to have 72 capsomeres comprising their capsid. No virus particles can be found in cancer lesions.

there is no effective treatment for EV, however, the use of oral retinoids such as etretinate results in the flattening of papular lesions and reduction in scaling and abnormal pigmentation in macular lesions. Lesions regress when retinoids are stopped.

Conclusions :

- 1- Histological examination showed the benign histological findings typical of EV: the cells of the upper layer of the