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Mini Review

The Ear Lobes of Albinos are Natural Sunshades

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Abstract

It is common wisdom that, owing to lack of melanin in their skin, the albinos suffer from cancer on account of exposure to sunlight. Interest in this discomfort led to experiments on shadows which occur on body parts especially as regards malignancy. I am persuaded that, in line with this, I observed a natural sun-shading. I refer to my observation that pre-auricular growths tend to abound and not their post-auricular counterparts. This phenomenon deserves documentation because its solution is likely to save the lives of millions of albinos.

Keywords: *Albino; Sunlight; Cancer; Pre-Auricular Growths; Post-Auricular Growths; Ear Lobes; Shading; Patterns*

Introduction

The lack of melanin as an inborn error has made albinos prone to cancer due to sunlight exposure [1,2]. An interesting idea arose in connection with experiments on body shadowing [3]. In effect, the element of shadow is important in the problem of malignancy in albinism. No wonder that wearing wide-brim hats has been in vogue as a preventive measure. In this context, does the ear lobe provide any degree of protection?

In keeping with the testament of a Birmingham (UK) group to the effect that the establishment of a histopathology data pool facilitates epidemiological analysis [4], the author was privileged to be the pioneer pathologist in charge of the Regional Pathology Laboratory at Enugu, erstwhile Capital City of the Eastern Region of Nigeria. Having trained at the prestigious Glasgow Western Infirmary historically noted to be second to none in Britain [5], I produced a Histology Request Form which delineated requirements as to the epidemiological data which must accompany formalin-fixed specimens. Moreover, since I kept personal copies of all Reports since 1970, their analysis tend to promote research. What stood out was in connection with cases of albinos whose cancer was closely related to the ear. Two examples are worthy of documentation.

Discussion

There are interesting observations in the literature with regard to the exact position of albino cancers in relation to the ear. Thus, Indian authors mentioned the lesion as being "behind right ear" [6], while a Blantyre group described a 27-year-old woman with "a left-sided pre-auricular ulcerating mass" [7].

At this stage, it is well to mention that, in my whole series, 13 patients exhibited the pre-auricular lesions whereas only 4 patients presented the post-auricular picture. Clearly, the relative scarcity of the latter must be ascribed to protection by the little sized ear lobes. If such success materializes in so small a part of the body, what will happen when the whole body is protected?

Conclusion

I am persuaded that this is comparable with the old saga of chimney sweepers' cancer in Britain. I dealt with it elsewhere [8]. The lasting lesson was that legislation was brought in and the evil vanished. Therefore, I am persuaded that albino cancer will end if there is statutory legislation towards the employment of all albinos indoors. This reminds me strongly of 2 albino Medical Students of mine of long ago who are today Consultant Physicians with unblemished visage! Surely, instead of the main approach to public health education [9], the above legal solution is imperative. Incidentally, in 1963, the Lancet carried my hypothesis on the fate of the circulating cancer cells [10]. This time its ancient pages by carrying the present hypothesis will ensure the saving of millions of albinos worldwide!

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