

ABSTRACT

Hypopigmented macule can always be found on the surface of human healthy skin or in the patients. This characteristic lesion can lead to diagnose of many diseases. One of all diseases which is very importance in community is leprosy. In Thailand there has been no reports of any studies to show that how many percentage of hypopigmented macule turn up to be leprosy.

This clinical study was carried out from December 1983 to January 1984. Eighty cases of hypopigmented macules were studied in out-patient skin clinic and in medical ward at Cholburi Hospital. There were 56 males and 24 females, age range from 15 to 80 years (mean 44.71 years).

All of the patients were examined by taking history, physical examination (including hypopigmented lesion, sensations testing, palpable peripheral nerves and muscle testing.) skin scraping of the lesion (by using KOH preparation), skin smear for leprosy (by using Fite Faraco Method) and skin biopsy (Punch biopsy).

From prospective study of eighty cases of hypopigmented macule, we found one case of leprosy (1.25%), idiopathic guttate hypomelanosis twenty cases (25%), tinea versicolor twenty-three cases (28.75%) and miscellaneous thirty six cases (45%)

From the incidence of this study should remind the physicians to look for the cause of hypopigmented macule in order to find out a case of leprosy.

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