DISSEMINATED SUPERFICIAL ACTINIC POROKERATOSIS

Disseminated superficial actinic porokeratosis, or DSAP, is a skin condition causing dry patches mainly on the arms and legs. DSAP is a special type of inherited sun spot and is sometimes confused with solar keratosis, which is more likely to arise on the face and hands. DSAP is inherited as an autosomal dominant characteristic, which means on average half of the children of an affected parent will also have the tendency. However, a certain amount of accumulated sun exposure, and perhaps other factors such as immune suppression, are needed to bring out this tendency.

Who gets DSAP?

It appears on the sun-exposed skin of people of European descent. It tends to be more prominent in summer and may appear less prominent in winter. New lesions can be provoked by ultraviolet light in sun lamps. The average age of patients who first notice DSAP is about 35 to 40, and its frequency in affected families increases with age. It is rare in childhood. A locus on chromosome 12 was found to be responsible for DSAP in a Chinese family.

Treatment

There is currently no satisfactory treatment for DSAP. Larger lesions are lightly frozen and patients return as necessary for further treatments, using a moisturiser to reduce the dryness.

Sun protection

Restriction of sun exposure by wearing long sleeves, skirts or slacks, and using sunscreens on the legs and arms, is believed to reduce the development of new lesions.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact us.

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