

## Image Correspondence

# Bedside Dermoscopy and Demonstration of Tin-tack Sign in Discoid Lupus Erythematosus

Debdeep Mitra<sup>1</sup>, Anuj Bhatnagar<sup>1</sup>, P. K. Sanoj<sup>1</sup>, Arun Singh<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Dermatology, Command Hospital Air Force, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India.

### \*Corresponding author:

Debdeep Mitra,  
Department of Dermatology,  
Command Hospital Air Force,  
Bengaluru, Karnataka, India.

[debdeep5000@gmail.com](mailto:debdeep5000@gmail.com)

Received: 10 September 2023  
Accepted: 19 November 2023  
Epub Ahead of Print: 21 December 2023  
Published: 12 February 2024

DOI  
10.25259/IJPGD\_83\_2023

### Quick Response Code:



Discoid lupus erythematosus (DLE) has characteristic features on dermoscopy and examination of the scales reveal a tin-tack sign due to follicular plugging. Tin-tack sign occurs as a result of the deposition of scales in the hair follicles leading to cicatricial alopecia. Later, when scales are removed, characteristic keratotic spikes that provide the 'carpet-tack or tin-tack sign' become visible.

On removing the adherent scales of the DLE lesions, the horny plugs that have occupied the patulous hair follicles become evident and this is known as tin-tack sign, carpet-tack sign or cat tongue sign. One characteristic of DLE that has been well portrayed is a positive 'tin-tack' sign.



**Figure 1:** (a) Dermoscopy (polarised ×10) showed branching and linear vessels and keratin plug, structureless white and brown areas in the background of scarring alopecia. (b) Discoid lupus erythematosus of scalp characterised by persistent scaly plaques, with associated scarring, atrophy and dyspigmentation. (c) Closer view of the scale showing tin-tack sign.

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-Share Alike 4.0 License, which allows others to remix, transform, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as the author is credited and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

©2024 Published by Scientific Scholar on behalf of Indian Journal of Postgraduate Dermatology

Dermoscopy (polarised  $\times 10$ ) showed branching and linear vessels and keratin plug, structureless white and brown areas in the background of scarring alopecia [Figure 1].

#### **Ethical approval**

Institutional Review Board approval is not required.

#### **Declaration of patient consent**

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent.

#### **Financial support and sponsorship**

Nil.

#### **Conflicts of interest**

There are no conflicts of interest.

#### **Use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for manuscript preparation**

The authors confirm that there was no use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for assisting in the writing or editing of the manuscript and no images were manipulated using AI.

**How to cite this article:** Mitra D, Bhatnagar A, Sanoj PK, Singh A. Bedside Dermoscopy and Demonstration of Tin-tack Sign in Discoid Lupus Erythematosus. *Indian J Postgrad Dermatol.* 2024;2:50-1. doi: 10.25259/IJPGD\_83\_2023