

## Image Correspondence

# Serpentine Supravenous Hyperpigmentation – A Rare Cutaneous Manifestation of Progressive Systemic Sclerosis

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A 35-year-old male complaints of binding down of skin and increased pigmentation over body for the past 3 years. Cutaneous examination revealed binding down of skin over face, neck, trunk and limbs. Salt and pepper pigmentation along with retained pigmentation over supratrochlear and supraorbital veins and also over their immediate branches was present over forehead and temple area [Figure 1]. This preservation of normal pigment overlying the superficial veins is known as serpentine supravenous hyperpigmentation. The pathophysiology behind this is depicted in Figure 2.

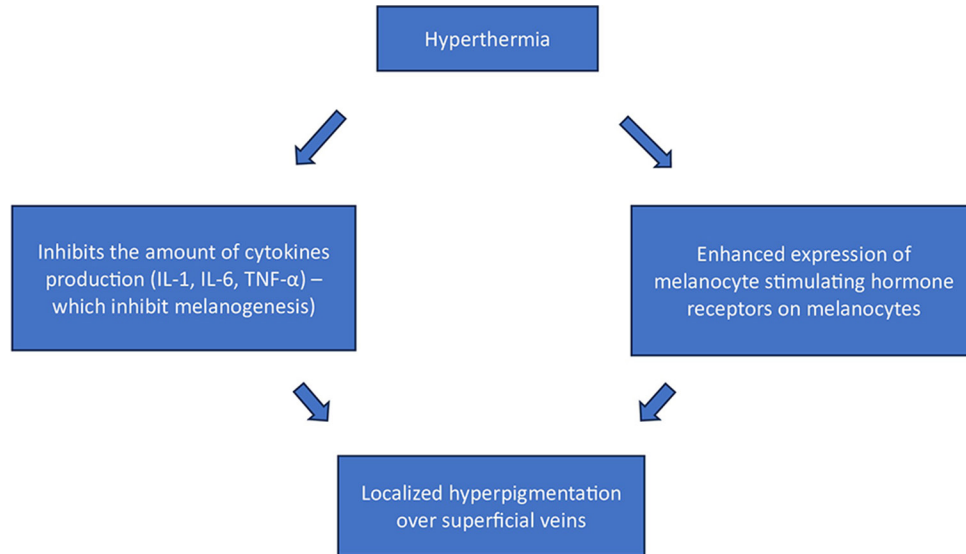
Jawitz *et al.*<sup>[1]</sup> first described pigment retention over temporal and scalp vessels in three patients of progressive systemic sclerosis (SSc). Sindhuja *et al.*<sup>[2]</sup> also reported supravenous sparing over forehead and frontal scalp in a 13-year-old diffuse SSc patient.



**Figure 1:** Salt and pepper pigmentation along with serpentine supravenous hyperpigmentation over forehead and temple area.

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**Figure 2:** Pathophysiology of serpentine supravenous hyperpigmentation in systemic sclerosis. IL: interleukin, TNF: Tumor necrosis factor.

All patients with supravenous sparing reported in literature had progressive SSc including our patient. Therefore, it can serve as an important cutaneous sign of progressive SSc.

#### 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

Dr. Geeti Khullar is on the Editorial Board of the Journal.

#### 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.

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