

Unilaterally Located Flat Dark Speckles: A Quiz

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A 24-year-old Caucasian female nursing student was sitting in the lunchroom, talking to the dermatologist. He noticed the

student had a sharp bordered cluster of brownish speckles on the left neck and arm. See Fig. 1.A-C.

What is the diagnosis? See next page for answer.



Fig.1. Cluster of brownish speckles on the left neck and arm.

DIAGNOSIS: NEVUS SPILUS MACULOSUS

The elements had been present since birth, she was otherwise healthy and there was no family history of neurofibromatosis or cutaneous mosaicism.

The diagnosis was made due to the even distribution of the speckles on a tannish-brown background (1-3).

No café-au-lait macules or other symptoms distinct for neurofibromatosis could be detected; therefore, the differential diagnosis of Mosaic Neurofibromatosis type 1 could be ruled out (4). Since the diagnosis is associated with an increased risk

of developing malignant melanoma (2, 3), regular follow-up is recommended.

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