



Imagens em Endocrinologia

Yellow Skin as a Rare Diabetes Mellitus's Manifestation



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Hospitalized 76-year-old female with long-time known type 2 (non-insulin-dependent) diabetes mellitus, with organ damage (retinopathy). During internment for confusional syndrome with 1 month of duration, evolves with hyperglycemia of difficult control and yellow palms and soles (Image 1- left foot plant; Image 2 - white arrow, left palm compared with normal palm on the left of image). No jaundice or other skin alterations associated were found. From the complementary exams performed, glycated hemoglobin of 7.4%, with serum bilirubin, renal and thyroid functions within normal limits. Additionally, normal serum vitamin A (0.4 ug/mL) and elevated carotenes (5973 ug/L), with no history of excessive consumption of carotenes-rich foods.

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Diabetes Complications;
Diabetes Mellitus, Type 2/complications;
Foot Dermatoses/etiology;
Hand Dermatoses/etiology;
Pigmentation Disorders/etiology.

Pele Amarela como Manifestação Rara da Diabetes Mellitus

Palavras-chave:

Alterações da Pigmentação/etiologia;
Complicações da Diabetes;
Dermatoses da Mão/etiologia;
Dermatoses do Pé/etiologia;
Diabetes Mellitus Tipo 2/complicações.



Figure 1. Yellow palms and soles (1- right foot; 2 - arrow, left palm compared with normal palm on the right).

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Yellow skin can occur in association with carotenemia, hypothyroidism, diabetes mellitus, and liver or kidney disease.¹ Many individuals with diabetes have elevated serum carotene levels, but only 10% of these individuals exhibit yellowing of the skin.²

This alteration is speculated that the conversion of carotenes to vitamin A in the liver and duodenum is deficient in diabetes. The resultant excess carotene being more lipid soluble gets accumulated in stratum corneum (outermost layer of the epidermis) owing to its high lipid content, imparting yellowish color to the skin.³

The patient was treated with insulin and oral hypoglycemic agents with an improvement in the glycemic measures and yellow skin discoloration during hospitalization.

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AC: revisão crítica e aprovação final.

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