

Utility of Wood's light in the preliminary diagnosis of atypical Peutz–Jeghers syndrome

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A 58-year-old woman presented to the dermatology outpatient department with a complaint of black spots on her palms for about 1 year, worrying about having ‘melanoma’. Unexpectedly, two dark maculae on her lower lip were detected under Wood's light (Figure 1), which were faint under white light and had never been noticed by the patient. Peutz–Jeghers syndrome was finally confirmed based on a combination of examinations.

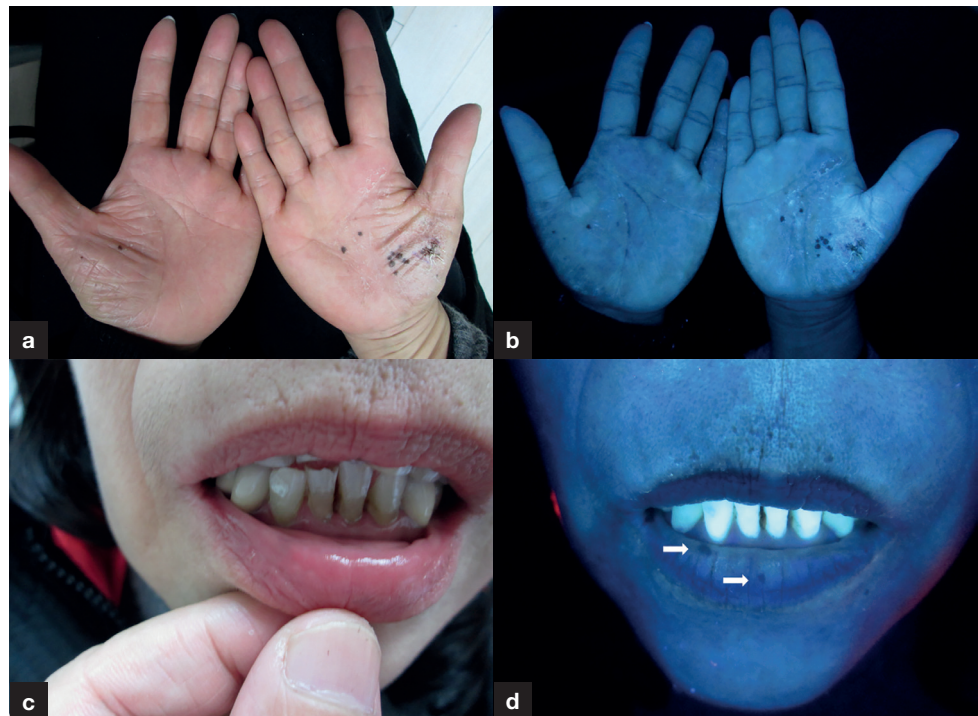


Figure 1. a. Clusters of hyperpigmented maculae visible on the palms. b. Maculae appeared to be pronounced under Wood's light. c. The black maculae on the lower lip were nearly invisible under white light. d. The pigmentation was more discernible under Wood's light.

Wood's light has been used in the diagnosis of pigment disorders for more than a century (Walsh et al, 2015; Wang et al, 2017). The typical manifestations of Peutz–Jeghers syndrome are mucocutaneous pigmentation around the mouth and, rarely, on the dorsal and volar aspects of the hands and feet (McGarrity et al, 2000). Pigmented maculae on the palms, as in this case, is a relatively rare presentation.

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