

Culture-bounded Skin Lesion

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In the present, the good transportation system help fasten the traveling between a side of the world to the other side. The emerging of new disease in a new setting is an interesting issue in medicine. In dermatology, there are many reports on new emerging diseases in new settings. The interesting topic is on the emerging infectious diseases such as emerging tropical dermatological problems in the new non-tropical countries. The good example is the emerging cutaneous creeping eruption. However, there are also other interesting imported clinical dermatology cases that are not the infectious disease. The culture-bound skin lesion is an interesting topic that is little mentioned. In many developing countries around the world, strange ritual and classical practices are still practiced in the present day. Some practices might induce the lesion at skin. Once the patients from those areas come to the new setting and present the strange appearance of skin lesion, it might be very difficult for diagnosis. The good examples are the groups of skin lesion due to classical Asian traditional therapy acting as scraping or crushing at skin (for example, Gua-Sha^[1,2]). Sometimes, a stranger lesion might be seen due to the ritual practice such as using heat objects such as candle to burn at skin or inserting foreign body such as golden needle into subcutaneous tissue causing skin nodule due to spiritual belief. These kinds of

skin lesion are called culture-bounded skin lesion. It is not a classical factitious dermatological problem that might be seen in the patients with underlying psychological problems. The culture-bounded skin lesion is due to the local norm, but the appearance is the new thing for the practitioner in the new setting. The dermatologist has to recognize the possible culture-bounded skin lesion when there is a case of strange skin lesion in patients migrating or traveling back from other settings. Recognizing of the possibility and simple history taking by asking the patient is the easy way to get the early diagnosis of culture-bounded skin lesion.

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