



Unveiling the Drawbacks of Lichen Striatus: A Comprehensive Examination

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INTRODUCTION

Lichen striatus, a relatively uncommon skin condition, manifests as a linear rash characterized by small, flat-topped papules that often occur in a linear or curvilinear arrangement. While lichen striatus is generally considered a benign and self-limiting condition, its appearance can be concerning for individuals affected by it. Although it usually resolves on its own without treatment, it is essential to acknowledge the potential drawbacks and challenges associated with this condition. This article aims to delve into the limitations and drawbacks of lichen striatus, shedding light on the impact it can have on affected individuals and providing a comprehensive overview of its implications. Lichen striatus can have a profound impact on the emotional and psychological well-being of affected individuals.

DESCRIPTION

The visible nature of the linear rash can lead to self-consciousness, low self-esteem, and decreased confidence. The presence of lichen striatus lesions, particularly in visible areas such as the face, arms or legs, may prompt questions or comments from others, causing embarrassment and social discomfort. The psychological distress associated with these issues can significantly affect a person's quality of life, particularly in cases where the condition persists for an extended period. While lichen striatus is typically self-limiting, it is important to note that some cases can exhibit prolonged or recurrent symptoms. In such instances, the condition can last for several months or even years, causing ongoing frustration and distress. The persistence of lichen striatus lesions can be a source of concern and may require medical

attention to alleviate symptoms and prevent further complications. The cosmetic implications of lichen striatus can be a significant drawback for those affected. Although the condition is not physically painful, the presence of linear, scaly papules can be aesthetically displeasing and may lead to dissatisfaction with one's appearance. As a result, affected individuals may seek various cosmetic interventions to minimize the visibility of the rash, such as camouflage makeup or clothing choices that cover affected areas. These measures can provide temporary relief, but they do not address the underlying condition itself.

The diagnosis of lichen striatus can pose challenges for healthcare professionals. The characteristic linear pattern of the rash may lead to confusion with other dermatological conditions, such as linear lichen planus or linear psoriasis. Distinguishing between these conditions can be difficult, requiring careful evaluation and sometimes invasive diagnostic procedures like skin biopsies. The potential misdiagnosis or delayed diagnosis of lichen striatus can lead to unnecessary treatments or a lack thereof, hindering proper management and adding to the frustrations of affected individuals. Currently, there is no definitive treatment for lichen striatus, primarily because it tends to resolve spontaneously over time. While symptomatic relief can be achieved through the use of topical corticosteroids or emollients to alleviate itching and inflammation, these measures do not expedite the resolution of the condition itself. Furthermore, treatment approaches are mostly focused on managing symptoms rather than targeting the root cause of the condition.

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CONCLUSION

This limitation underscores the need for further research into effective treatment modalities that can accelerate the healing process and prevent recurrences. Although lichen striatus is generally considered a benign and self-limiting condition, it is important to recognize the drawbacks and challenges associated with it. The emotional and psychological impact, persistent symptoms, cosmetic concerns, diagnostic

challenges and limited treatment options all contribute to the potential drawbacks of this condition.