



Images In Medicine

Knee Lichenification In Parkinson's Disease: "Parkinson Knees"

Joseph H. Friedman, MD, and Stephen Glinick, MD

Lichenification describes a leathery pattern of response of the predisposed skin to repeated rubbing or scratching, which once established may become self-perpetuating even after the etiology has been removed.¹ This is a well-described syndrome in people who spend time on their knees or other body parts, including, for example, Muslims who pray several times each day.² We could find no references to its occurrence in Parkinson's disease (PD).

The photos are the knees of a 54-year-old man who had been diagnosed with PD 21 years before and suffered from severe fluctuations in response to his medications. He had had a unilateral pallidotomy before **deep brain stimulation (DBS)** was developed but was not a candidate for DBS due to psychiatric problems. At the time of the photos he was taking carbidopa-levodopa 10/100 2 tablets every two hours, entacapone 200 mg three times daily and pramipexole 1.0 mg three times daily. He was "on" with dyskinesias half the day and "off", unable to walk, the other half. When unable to walk he crawled, resulting in the skin changes over his knees.

REFERENCES

1. Rook A, D.S. Wilkinson. Eczema, Lichen Simplex and Prurigo, Chapter 12. In: Rook A (ed). *Textbook of Dermatology, Third Edition*. Blackwell Scientific Publications. London, UK. 1979, p 341.
2. Abanmi AA, Al Zoumani AY, et al. Prayer marks. *Intl J Dermatol* 2002;41:411-4.

Joseph H. Friedman, MD is Clinical Professor of Neurology, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and Editor-in-Chief of Medicine & Health/Rhode Island.

Stephen Glinick, MD, is Clinical Associate Professor in Dermatology at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Disclosure of Financial Interests

Joseph H. Friedman, MD, Consultant: Acadia Pharmacy, Ovation, Transoral; Grant Research Support: Cephalon, Teva, Novartis, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Sepracor, Glaxo; Speakers' Bureau: Astra Zeneca, Teva, Novartis, Boehringer-Ingelheim, GlaxoAcadia, Sepracor, Glaxo Smith Kline, Neurogen, and EMD Serono.

Stephen Glinick, MD, has no financial interests to disclose.

CORRESPONDENCE

Joseph H. Friedman, MD
e-mail: Joseph_Friedman@brown.edu

