ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION:

Lupus erythematous is a complex autoimmune disorder, of unknown etiology with various manifestations ranging from benign to fatal systemic illness. This study was done to analyze the clinicopathological spectrum and the most common histopathological features in various subtypes of Cutaneous Lupus Erythematous, in addition to the utility of special stains in highlighting the significant features.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

It is a prospective study done for a period of one and a half years. In this study, 40 clinically diagnosed, untreated Cutaneous Lupus Erythematous patients were included.

RESULTS:

In 40 clinically diagnosed patients, 19 were diagnosed as Acute Lupus Erythematous (47.5%), 6 as Subacute Lupus Erythematous (15%) and 15 as Discoid Lupus Erythematous (37.5%). The commonly affected patients were females between 31-45 years of age. The most common histopathological features in various subtypes of Cutaneous
Lupus Erythematosus includes basal cell vacuolar degeneration with periadnexal and perivascular inflammation. In DLE patients, additional features such as basement membrane thickening and interstitial dermal mucin were frequently observed with the help of special stain, PAS with Alcian blue.

CONCLUSION:

In this study, histopathological examination of skin biopsy with concurrent use of special stain and clinical correlation helps in diagnosis and subclassification of the disease. Periodic assessment of cutaneous lesions of Lupus Erythematosus will help us to demonstrate the various manifestations of the disease in all aspects.

KEYWORDS:

Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus, Basal cell vacuolar degeneration, PAS with Alcian blue, Basement membrane thickening, Dermal mucin.