

(ACTINIC KERATOSIS, SENILE KERATOSIS)**DEFINITION**

1. **Solar keratosis** is a condition which exhibits lesions of the skin, these occurring most frequently on the sun-exposed surfaces.

CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS

2. Solar keratoses are usually multiple and discrete. They may be flat or elevated, verrucous or keratotic and red or skin coloured. The surface is generally covered by an adherent scale but can be smooth and shiny. Histologically the epidermal changes are characterised by acanthosis, dyskeratosis and atypical appearance of the keratocytes.

AETIOLOGY

3. The process is due to the cumulative effect of radiant energy.
4. The great majority of cases occur as a result of excessive exposure to the sun, particularly in fair skinned, middle aged and elderly persons, susceptibility being influenced by the amount of pigment in the skin.
5. Similar changes may be induced by ionizing radiation and in workers exposed to pitch and other products of coal distillation.

CONCLUSION

6. **Solar Keratosis** is a condition of dry, usually scaly, patches on the skin. These most commonly result from excessive exposure to the sun although the condition may also occur in those exposed to ionizing radiation or coal distillation products.

REFERENCE

Andrews's Diseases of the Skin; Domonkos. Arnold and Odom. 7th Ed. W B Saunders Company. Philadelphia. 1982. 35 and 800-801.

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