Ashy dermatosis

Ashy dermatosis is a controversial entity that has received many names in the literature. It has sometimes been associated with other diseases, and sometimes considered a variant of lichen planus (LP).

Some authors suggest that the condition is no more than a post-inflammatory pigmented change in dark-skinned people. However, although the disease is mainly described in patients with dark skin, it has been occasionally described in light-skinned patients. The bluish-grey aspect of the lesions, which led to the name *ashy dermatosis*, is the result of the Tyndall effect. It may be that certain characteristics of melanosome size and distribution predispose to the development of this pigmentary anomaly.
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