Riehl melanosis, also known as female facial melanosis, is mostly seen in middle-aged women, especially in darker skin types, such as Mexican and Asian women.

It is characterized by a rapid onset of a reticular gray-brown to almost black hyperpigmentation.

The face (especially the forehead, zygomatic area, and temples) and the neck are principally involved but the hands, forearms, and trunk can also be affected. Inflammatory findings such as erythema and pruritus are usually absent.

The main histopathologic feature is liquefactive degeneration of the basal layer of the epidermis, resulting in pigment incontinence in the dermis. The pathogenesis is not understood. The hyperpigmentation has been postulated to be induced by repeated contact with threshold doses of a contact sensitizer such as fragrances, some pigments, and bactericides used in cosmetics and optical whiteners, but is poorly documented in most cases.