

〈教育セミナー〉
(皮膚と毛髪の色科学)

皮膚色の増す病気, 減る病気

渡辺 晋一*

Hyperpigmentation and Hypopigmentation

Shinichi WATANABE*

Abstract

Multiple factors interrelate to determine human skin color. Among these are the reflection coefficient of the skin surface, the absorption coefficient of epidermal and dermal cell constituents, the scattering coefficient of various cell layers, the thickness of the individual cell layers, and the presence of several pigments. The melanin pigmentary system of man is an ingenious one in which two cell types (melanocytes and keratinocytes) and their subcellular components interact to create the end result of pigmentation. Pigmentary disorders manifest themselves clinically as either lightening or darkening of the skin. Disturbances of melanin pigmentation may be based on an increase in amount, a decrease in amount, absence, or an abnormal location, distribution, or state of degeneration of melanin pigment in the skin, hair, mucous membrane, or nails. In turn, these factors may vary with alterations in numbers of melanocytes and in their melanin-producing and transferring activity, as well as with change in the rate and manner of loss of melanin pigment from the skin. Among causes of such alterations are genetic, metabolic, endocrine, nutritional, inflammatory, neoplastic, infectious, chemical and physical, and still to be discovered factors.

Key words: hyperpigmentation, hypopigmentation, nevocellular nevus, nevus of Ota, vitiligo vulgaris.