

In Dermatology

Nevus of Ota

A nevus is a circumscribed and stable malformation of a component of the skin. Nevi are often present at birth, when they are often called brown birthmarks. Nevi composed of melanocytes (the pigment cells that produce melanin) are called melanocytic nevi or pigmented nevi.



Nevus of Ota is on the forehead and face around the eye area (*see image*).

They are forms of dermal melanocytosis in which nevus cells are found deep within the dermis.

Nevus of Ota is present at birth in 50% of cases but may appear during adolescence or adult life.

Treatment of a melanocytosis may include cosmetic camouflage to cover the disfiguring markings, and laser treatment (usually using 1064nm Q switched Nd:YAG, Alexandrite or QS ruby laser) or intense pulsed light (IPL).

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