

A woman with bluish-coloured ears

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ABSTRACT

A 60-year-old woman presented with typical features of alkaptonuria.

CASE REPORT

A 60-year-old woman was referred by her general practitioner because of a bluish discoloration of both auricles, which had been present for some years (*figure 1*). A year earlier arthroscopy, performed because of pain in the right knee, showed dark-grey sediment on the cartilage but no further abnormalities. Except for the pain in the right knee, which was already decreasing, she had no symptoms of the skeletal system. The patient said that she had noticed that her urine showed a dark discoloration when the toilet had not been flushed for a number of hours. The family history revealed that two of her three brothers had also developed dark-coloured auricles. Besides the bluish discoloration of both auricles, physical examination revealed pigmentation of both sclerae (*figure 2*). No further discolorations of skin or cartilage were found.

WHAT IS YOUR DIAGNOSIS?

See page 212 for the answers to this photo quiz.



Figure 1
Ochronotic pigmentation of the conchae, anthelices and helices of the right and left ear, respectively



Figure 2
Ochronotic pigmentation of the sclerae of the right and left eye, respectively