



ACNE, ROSACEA, AND RELATED DISORDERS (INCLUDING HIDRADENITIS SUPPURATIVA)

A RARE CASE OF PYODERMA FACIALE IN A 30-YEAR OLD MALE TREATED WITH ISOTRETINOIN

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Background: Pyoderma faciale is a rare and severe form of rosacea. It presents with abrupt onset of painful papules, pustules, cysts and coalescing nodules associated with central facial erythema. It is more commonly seen in females. Etiology is still not clear. Various factors, like hormonal, immunological and vascular are being considered.

Observation: We present a case of a 30-year old male, who had a history of a sudden eruption of solitary, erythematous, tender, papule on the lateral side of the left eyebrow. Similar lesions, which later on became ulcerated, emerged over the bilateral zygomatic regions. Various diagnoses were considered, including ecthyma gangrenosum and pyoderma gangrenosum. He was treated with oral and intravenous antibiotics and oral prednisone, respectively. No improvement was seen. Biopsy showed prominent dermal edema, dilated blood vessels and granulation tissue-like changes with occasional giant cells. Patient was managed as a case of cutaneous tuberculosis. Improvement was noted after 8 months of anti-Koch's therapy. However, recurrence of the lesions was observed after the cessation of the medications. The sudden presentation, cutaneous findings, histopathology and unresponsiveness to the previous treatments supported the diagnosis of pyoderma faciale. Isotretinoin was started at 0.5-1 mg/kg/day. Good clinical response was noted by the end of 3 months.

Key message: Pyoderma faciale is a rare eruptive facial disorder. Misdiagnosis is common. A high index of suspicion is needed for initiation of prompt treatment to prevent scarring. Isotretinoin 0.5-1 mg/kg/day is an effective treatment option for pyoderma faciale with noted improvement of lesions within 3 months.

