



ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS, INCLUDING SJS, TEN

SPIDER BITE: A SPECTRUM OF BOTH ACUTE LOCALIZED AND GENERALIZED EXANTHEMATOUS PUSTULOSIS

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Background: Acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP) is a severe cutaneous rash, drug-induced in the majority of cases. Its localized variant is rare and called “acute localized exanthematous pustulosis (ALEP).

Observations: Case n 1: A 29-year-old woman presented with multiple erythematous pustules on her left thigh appeared 24 hours after a spider bite, associated with fever. On examination, she had annular erythematous lesions with dozens of pustules on her left thigh with a necrotic crust in the center. Results of pustules cultures were negatives. Based on clinical and histopathological features a diagnosis of ALEP was made, with only the spider bite as the possible triggering factor. The patient was treated with both systemic antibiotics with desquamation within a week.

Case n 2: A 37-year-old woman presented a feverish rash that had been evolving for 3 days following a spider bite. There was no drug intake or accidental exposure to mercury. Clinical examination revealed a generalized erythematous rash covered with hundreds of small sterile pustules and a dermonecrotic skin lesion of a spider bite in the abdomen. The diagnosis of PEAG was retained based on a biopsy specimen. Complete regression was obtained after ten days of local treatment.

Key message: We report two cases of AGEP and ALEP occurring after a spider bite. Induction of AGEP after a spider bite is rarely reported in literature. It is supposed that spider's venom contains sphingomyelinase that stimulates the release of IL8 and GM-CSF, which are implicated in AGEP pathogenesis. Only few cases of ALEP have been reported to date, most of cases are drug-induced and localized to the face. To the best of our knowledge, there are no previous reports of ALEP induced by spider bite. Therefore, further study may be required to understand the etiopathogenesis of this disease.

