



AUTOIMMUNE BULLOUS DISEASES

WHEN BUBBLES ARE CONFUSING!

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Introduction: The erythema multiform (EM) is due mainly to infectious agents: herpes simplex viruses and Mycoplasma pneumonia. It can be a serious illness with a fatal evolution. We report the case of a patient with an atypical presentation of EM.

Observation: A 59-year-old woman presented with a multiple bullous lesions evolving since 4 days before her consultation. It was associated with an inability to eat solid food. At admission, the patient was afebrile. On the dermatological examination, we noted many bullous lesions with clear inside and variant sizes, laying on an erythematous background with a targetoid macules especially on the palms and legs. There were a few phlycten in the internal sides of the legs. The sign of Nikolsky was positive. The examination of the oral mucosa revealed erosion in the lips, the gum and the tongue. The other mucous (ocular and genital) were healthy. The rest of the examination did not show any abnormalities. The histopathological examination and fluorescent antibody technique direct concluded to the diagnosis of EM. The treatment consisted in corticosteroid therapy. The evolution was rapidly favorable with complete healing within 1 week.

Key points: EM is an inflammatory condition that can affect the skin, the mucosa, or both. It is characterised by acute onset of symptoms and is divided into major or minor depending on the presence or absence of mucosal involvement, respectively. The clinical presentation of our patient with phlyctenes and larges bubbles has not been described yet.

