AUTOIMMUNE CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES

EXTRAGENITAL LICHEN SCLEROSUS ET ATROPHICUS MIMICKING MYCOSIS FUNGOIDES

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Background: Lichenoid dermatitis is a histopathological reaction pattern seen in various dermatological conditions. Infrequently, early stages of lichen sclerosus et atrophicus may show lichenoid dermatitis with tagging of lymphocytes and lymphocytic exocytosis making differentiation from mycosis fungoides difficult.

Observation: A 35 year old male presented with multiple asymptomatic light coloured lesions over the trunk and bilateral lower extremity since 6 months. There was no history of appearance of red raised skin lesions before the appearance of the white coloured lesions. There was no history of application of irritants prior to appearance of the lesions. Cutaneous examination revealed multiple white atrophic macules, few coalescing to form patches over the bilateral lower extremities and few scattered lesions over the trunk. Histopathological examination revealed lichenoid infiltrate of lymphocytes in the papillary dermis. There were multiple lymphocytes located in the lower layers of the epidermis and at the dermoepidermal junction. These lymphocytes showed nuclei surrounded by a clear halo. The stratum corneum was hyperplastic with a relative reduced stratum spinosum focally. Homogenisation of collagen bundles and thickened collagen bundles were only seen in one focus. After clinicopathologcial correlation, the patient was diagnosed as a case of extragenital lichen sclerosus et atrophicus.

Key message: This case illustrates that mild lichenoid dermatitis, tagging of lymphocytes at the dermo-epidermal infiltrate, basilar epidermotropism, haloed lymphocytes at the dermoepidermal junction may be seen in early lesions of lichen sclerosus et atrophicus highlighting the importance of clinical correlation in such cases.