



DERMATOPATHOLOGY

A UNIQUE AND RARE CASE OF EXTRAMAMMARY PAGET'S DISEASE WITH CONCOMITANT HERPES SIMPLEX

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Background: Extramammary Paget's disease (EMPD) was first described by Crocker in 1889. It has a predilection for the anogenital region and is characterized histologically by intra-epidermal proliferation of clear neoplastic cells (Paget cells) with classical immunohistochemical staining for simple epithelial keratins such as CK7. Like EMPD, herpes simplex viral (HSV) infections also affect the anogenital area and are characterized by cellular ballooning, multinucleated giant cells and condensation of the chromatin within the nuclei of cells. Co-existence of both EMPD and HSV is rare.

Observation: A 64 year-old Chinese male presented with an ill-demarcated erythematous indurated 20mm x 30mm plaque at the base of the penis. There was overlying crusting and a few superficial linear erosions. Histological findings showed a necrotic and ulcerated epidermis with psoriasiform hyperplasia and intraepithelial aggregates of pale staining Paget cells. There were also classical herpetic viral cytopathic changes of balloon degeneration, multinucleated giant cells and margination of chromatin affecting both keratinocytes and Paget cells. CK7 and HSV immunostaining highlighted that HSV infected both keratinocytes as well as some of the CK7 positive Paget cells.

Key message: The co-existence of HSV infection with EMPD is extremely rare. Immunostaining was useful to show that HSV not only infected keratinocytes but also the Paget cells.

