



DERMATOPATHOLOGY

A UNIQUE CASE OF DORSAL AQUAGENIC SYRINGEAL ACROKERATODERMA

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Background: Aquagenic syringeal acrokeratoderma(ASA) is a rare skin disorder characterised by symmetrical flat-topped white and translucent papules that develop on the palms and soles. The lesions become more prominent after exposure to water. Concurrent palm and dorsal aspect involvement has only been described in 2 cases. We describe a case of a teenage girl with aquagenic syringeal acrokeratoderma affecting solely the dorsal aspect of her hands. To our knowledge, this is the first case in current literature of ASA affecting exclusively the dorsal aspect of hands.

Observation: A 15-year-old girl presented in the dermatology clinic with symmetrical flesh coloured papules on the dorsum of her hands. These had been present for approximately 10 years and during this period the patient had received various treatments by the GP for alleged viral warts without any improvement. Immersion of the hands in the water resulted in exacerbation of the lesions and provoked a tingling sensation. Dermoscopy revealed dilatation of sweat duct puncta and tripe-like structures. The clinical and dermatoscopic findings were suggestive of ASA. Considering the rarity of this entity and the fact that it has never been described exclusively on the dorsal surfaces, punch biopsies were taken before and after immersion of the patient's hands into water. Histopathologic examination revealed hyperkeratosis and papillomatosis with a "church-spire" appearance. HPV immunostaining and PAS stain for fungi were negative. Following immersion of the hands into water there was evident dilatation of the eccrine ducts in the epidermis. The diagnosis of ASA was therefore established, and the patient was started on treatment with 19% aluminum hydroxychloride cream.

Key message: ASA typically affects the palms and soles. The presence of the characteristic lesions of ASA on the dorsum of the hands should raise clinical suspicion and guide the appropriate treatment despite being extremely rare.

