



DERMATOPATHOLOGY

ATROPHIC DERMATOFIBROMA IN AN ELDERLY MALE – A RARELY DESCRIBED VARIANT OF A COMMON LESION

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Background: Dermatofibroma (DF) frequently presents as red-brown nodules on the extremities of the middle aged. Atrophic DF is a rare variant that has been most commonly described as an atrophic depressed, erythematous lesion in females. The correct diagnosis of atrophic DF is often hindered by its infrequent presentation. It has a female preponderance with an occurrence ratio of 10:1. We describe a case of an atrophic DF on the back of an elderly male.

Observation: A 64-year-old male patient presented with a 12 x 8 mm an indented erythematous plaque on the right mid back. Dermoscopy demonstrated an ill-defined erythematous lesion with stellate white scar-like area, and white to yellow lobules corresponding to sebaceous hyperplasia. Biopsy demonstrated a spindle cell proliferation in a storiform pattern, loss of elastic fibers, and substantial atrophy of both the underlying dermis and subcutaneous tissue. An aggregation of elastic fibers was found in the periphery of the tumor. These histologic features supported the diagnosis of atrophic DF.

The rarity of reports of atrophic DF is likely due to the lack of biopsies performed on such lesions due to their benign clinical appearance. Our report highlights features of atrophic DF that are rarely described, including the dermoscopic findings of the lesion and atrophy of adipose tissue on histopathological exam. The dermal and adipocyte atrophy was likely responsible for the retracted appearance of the lesion.

Key message: We report an atrophic DF in an elderly male, which is distinctive from the established strong association of atrophic DF in females. The lesion was notable for both dermal and adipocyte atrophy as well as a loss of elastic fibers. Atrophic DF should be considered in the differential diagnosis of inwardly puckering lesions.

