



DERMOSCOPY AND SKIN IMAGING

DERMATOSCOPY AS A VALUABLE TOOL IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF INTRACTABLE GROIN ITCH IN AN ELDERLY FEMALE

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Background: Dermoscopy is a valuable non-invasive aid and can obviate the need for a biopsy in some cases.

Observation: Seventy seven old female presented with intensely pruritic lesions over the groins and the perianal area since 2 years. She had received repeated courses of oral and topical antifungals with intermittent use of topical steroids and antihistaminics with the diagnosis of tinea cruris et corporis; without any relief. She was a known case of Rheumatoid arthritis since past 15 years and was on prednisolone 10 mg everyday with Methotrexate 7.5mg per week since 3 years.

On examination there were ill-defined erythematous to hyperpigmented violaceous looking macerated plaques over bilateral groins and labia majora extending onto its inner aspect. Similar plaques were noted onto the perianal area. Few erosions were noted that were attributed to the intense pruritus. Rest of the dermatological examination was normal. Clinical diagnosis of inverse lichen planus with genital involvement was made.

Histopathology to our surprise showed the acantholysis of the whole epidermis with classical dilapidated brick wall appearance with acanthosis and dyskeratosis diagnostic of Hailey Hailey disease. The diagnosis was intriguing considering the late age of onset, lack of family history, ongoing immunosuppressive treatment and absence of seasonal variation.

A dermoscopy of lesions was performed using DermLite DL4N in the polarised and non-polarised mode which showed irregular shaped linear furrows with a whitish macerated overhanging edge with whitish zig zag lines having a pink periphery. These features were correlating with the diagnosis of Hailey Hailey disease.

Key Messages: Dermoscopy can serve as a valuable non-invasive tool in identifying the diagnostic linear furrows in Hailey Hailey disease that can be missed on clinical naked eye examination - as in this case.

