



GENDER DERMATOLOGY

## LIPOATROPHIA SEMICIRCULARIS

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**Background:** Lipoatrophia semicircularis is an uncommon idiopathic condition characterized by semicircular impression of the skin, usually at the front and sides of the thighs with atrophy of the subcutaneous adipocytes while the skin and muscles are spared. The pathogenesis of this disorder is elusive, although repeated mechanical compression has been advocated as a causative factor. In support of this hypothesis, we report a case of a young woman presenting with lipoatrophia semicircularis following mechanical compression.

**Observation:** A 37-year-old woman presented with a four weeks history of horizontal depression of the right limb. The lesion, 2.5-3 cm wide and 13 cm long, was completely asymptomatic and affected the anterolateral aspect of the upper thigh.

The overlying skin appeared completely normal and further physical examination was completely unremarkable, as well as routine laboratory analysis with negative antinuclear, anti-DNA and anti SCL-70 antibodies.

Histopathology only showed minimal hemorrhage in the fat tissue with atrophy of the subcutaneous adipocytes, without any alteration of the epidermis or dermis, compatible with lipoatrophia semicircularis.

Patient did not recall any continuative trauma but only a trauma against the edge of the table at work. The lesion disappeared six months later.

**Key message:** The cause of lipoatrophia semicircularis remains unknown. Nevertheless, minimal and repeated local mechanical trauma and impaired circulation in the affected region have both been suggested in view of the constant and specific localization of the lesion. Our case supports the hypothesis that this condition is caused by repetitive trauma to the upper thigh rather than being attributed to any vascular malformation. This report also emphasizes the importance of taking a detailed medical history especially looking into the possibility of trauma.

