



GENETICS AND GENODERMATOSES

## POROKERATOSIS IN CHILDREN: A PATHOLOGY TO REMEMBER

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**Background:** Porokeratosis (PK) is a group of acquired or genetic dermatosis characterized by a disorder of epidermal differentiation. There are several anatomic-clinical forms of PK and different age groups can be affected. We report a case of PK in a 7 years old child.

**Observation:** A little girl K.L 7 years old, came to our department for keratotic elements. Its history began 2 years ago by the appearance of erythematous-squamous elements in the hand and the left elbow. There was no triggering factor (infection, vaccination or sun exposure). Dermatological examination revealed erythematous-squamous papular elements confluent in places, forming plaques of varying size and shape with net contours, with keratotic margins located in the hand and left elbow. Examination of the oral mucosa and appendages was normal. A skin biopsy was performed showing the image of cornoid lamella and concluding to porokeratosis. The biological and radiological assessment was peculiar except for iron deficiency anemia. In front of the clinical aspect of the elements and the data of the anamnesis, the diagnosis of porokeratosis was retained. The child was treated locally with tretinoin and photoprotection with good improvement.

**Key message:** Porokeratosis (PK) is a rare genodermatosis whose etiopathogenesis remains unclear. There are several anatomic-clinical forms, the most common of which is the Mibelli plate PK. This is the form that touched our patient. It is clinically characterized by the presence of plaques of variable size with filiform keratotic border. These elements predominate in the limbs, on the face, palmar-plantar areas, genitals, buttocks and oral mucosa. Therapeutically, several drugs have been tried locally and systemic but their effectiveness remains uncertain and the results are often transitory. Overall prognosis of porokeratosis is favorable, however, conditioned by the risk of malignant transformation of the lesions, hence the importance of regular monitoring of these lesions.

