GENETICS AND GENODERMATOSES

TO KNOW TO RECOGNIZE

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A young man for two years suffered from recurrent appearance of papules on the hand. In particular he presented multiple, round, brilliant asymptomatic normochromic hyperkeratotic papules on the transition area between the ventral and dorsal surface of the hands, diagnosed clinically as warts and treated with cryotherapy and topical exfoliant (salicylic acid and urea) without benefit.
A biopsy of one of the lesions showed focal acral hyperkeratosis, a rare genodermatosis with an autosomal dominant pattern of inheritance, that can be diagnosed in face to clinical and anatomopathological findings. Clinically it is similar to acrokeratoelastoidosis of Costa and other differential diagnosis include plane warts, acrokeratosis verruciformis of Hopf, colloid milium, xanthomatous eruption and degenerative colloid plaque.
This case remember that in immunocompetent patients with recurrent warts, it is necessary to consider many other differential diagnosis, often rare disease to avoid useless treatments with no benefit, to avoid to not be able to make the correct diagnosis. Many times it requires histopathological examination to confirm the suspected diagnosis, and dermatologist should help pathologist in order to achieve the objective.