



INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

A RARE CASE OF LICHEN SCROFULOSORUM IN A 67-YEAR-OLD FILIPINO MAN: A CASE REPORT

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Background: Tuberculosis (TB) has been consistently included as one of the top ten leading causes of morbidity in the Philippines. Cutaneous tuberculosis (CTB) is uncommon, comprising 1-1.5% of all extra-pulmonary tuberculosis manifestations, which manifests only in 8.4-13.7% of all tuberculosis cases. Lichen scrofulosorum is a very rare form of tuberculid consisting of closely grouped, lichenoid papules which classically occurs in children and adolescents with a strong immune sensitivity to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. It is thought of as a form of immune response to hematological spread from an underlying tuberculous focus.

Observation: We report a case of a 67 year old, Filipino male patient who presented with a one-year history of follicular papules on the upper back associated with pruritus. No consult was done, and no medications were applied nor taken. Lesions increased in number, spreading to the extremities. Physical examination showed widespread, multiple, follicular and small annular papules on the upper back and extremities. Purified protein derivative (PPD) skin test was positive at 20 mm. Chest Xray revealed pulmonary tuberculosis. Skin punch biopsy was done which showed a nodular granulomatous inflammatory infiltrate in the dermis consisting of histiocytes, lymphocytes and numerous multi-nucleated giant cells. Patient was started on Anti-Koch's therapy and there was gradual resolution of lesions.

Key Message: Lichen scrofulosorum should be considered as one of the differential diagnosis in a patient presenting with follicular papules in a tuberculosis-endemic country. Skin biopsy, PPD, laboratory investigation to determine possible systemic foci of TB are mandatory to establish a definite diagnosis of lichen scrofulosorum. Early institution of anti-TB medications is imperative in treatment.

