



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

THREE CASES OF SEVERE NODULO- ULCERATIVE ERUPTIONS ON LIMBS – UNUSUAL PRESENTATIONS CAUSED BY COMMON PATHOGENS

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Background: Staphylococcus aureus and M.leprae are cutaneous pathogens causing infections with well-defined morphological features. However, they can rarely present with atypical skin manifestations. Here we present 3 male patients with severe nodulo-ulcerative eruptions on limbs, which when investigated were found to be atypical presentations due to these pathogens.

Observation: Case 1: A 44 year male presented with multiple discharging nodules, sinuses with purulent discharge on right leg, extending from ankle to mid-thigh of 13 year duration. There was pain and swelling at right knee. Culture from discharge was negative for fungi but showed Staph aureus. Skin biopsy revealed features of botryomycosis.

Case 2: A 31 year male presented with tender nodules, pustules and edema of upper and lower limbs of 15 days duration. There were succulent lesions containing pus and blood. H/O similar eruptions 6 months back, lasting 3 weeks. Few plaques with sheets of pustules were seen on trunk. On investigations and skin biopsy, diagnosis of lepromatous leprosy with erythema necroticans was confirmed.

Case 3: A 35 year male presented with multiple furuncle like lesions and ulcers on lower limbs and trunk of 8 months duration. For months, he was treated with conventional antibiotic therapy with no response. Patient was febrile with myalgia and arthralgia of small joints. On investigations and skin biopsy it was diagnosed as Lepromatous leprosy with erythema necroticans.

Key Message: The three cases are presented for their atypical presentations caused by common pathogens, which can be missed, unless such possibilities are considered in differential diagnosis.

