



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

UNUSUAL SKIN MANIFESTATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH PARVOVIRUS B19 PRIMARY INFECTION IN CHILDREN

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Background: Parvovirus B19 (PVB19) is a DNA virus of the Parvoviridae family. In children, primary infection causes two well-defined entities: infectious erythema and the papular-purpuric gloves-and-socks syndrome. Furthermore, asymmetric periflexural exanthem of childhood may be caused by parvovirus too. Nevertheless, atypical presentations can also arise.

Observation: We describe four children, one girl and three boys, between the ages of 4 and 13, who consulted due to unusual dermatologic manifestations of PVB19 infection.

Two of them showed purpuric rounded plaques located in periflexural areas, including dorsum of the feet, ankles, knees, posterior area of thighs, inguinal region, buttocks, and armpits.

The other two presented a generalized pruritic purpuric exanthem.

The exanthem appeared abruptly in all the cases and it was pruritic. The patients associated fever, arthralgias and myalgias. Some of the them presented anemia, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia and even pancytopenia.

Viral serology was positive for PVB19 (immunoglobulin M and G) and in some cases for Epstein Barr (IgM) too. Skin biopsy demonstrated small-vessel leukocytoclastic vasculitis.

Symptoms were managed using nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

Skin lesions and hematologic abnormalities returned to normal in a few days.

Key message: PVB19 may cause atypical skin findings in children. The infection should be considered when patients present polymorphous petechial or purpuric eruptions associated with fever and systemic symptoms. We consider it important to recognize these unusual forms to guide management appropriately.

