



INFLAMMATORY SKIN DISEASES (OTHER THAN ATOPIC DERMATITIS & PSORIASIS)

A RARE LICHENOID DERMATITIS

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BACKGROUND: Annular lichenoid dermatitis of youth (ALDY) is a rare clinico-pathological entity, characterized by erythematous-squamous plaques, located on the abdomen and hips. Cutaneous biopsy and histological examination are mandatory for diagnosis. The pathogenesis is unknown, although is believed to be determined by a T-cell mediated inflammatory reaction typically confined to the apex of the interpapillary crests. There is no standardized treatment; however, a transient remission can be obtained with topical or systemic corticosteroids, topical tacrolimus and NB-UVB phototherapy.

OBSERVATION: We present a case of a 38-year-old woman who was examined for the presence of erythematous plaques with fine desquamation, located on the abdominal folds and periumbilical region. The patient had a personal history of atopic dermatitis and multi drug intolerance and referred the appearance of these lesions about one month earlier. Differential diagnosis included atopic dermatitis, mycosis fungoides and a rare form of lichenoid dermatosis, ALDY. A skin biopsy of one lesion on the hip was performed and the histological examination showed a lichenoid dermatitis with lymphocytic infiltration located on the tip of the interpapillary ridges and vasculopathy of the basal layer of the epidermis. The histological features were compatible with the diagnosis of ALDY.

KEY MESSAGE: ALDY represents a distinct, rare entity within the family of lichenoid dermatitis. Differential diagnosis, as in our case, includes a variety of inflammatory and neoplastic diseases and therefore histological examination is of paramount importance for the final diagnosis.

