



INFLAMMATORY SKIN DISEASES (OTHER THAN ATOPIC DERMATITIS & PSORIASIS)

## ACTINIC LICHEN NITIDUS IN A TUNISIAN PATIENT

Y Soua<sup>(1)</sup> - K Ameer<sup>(1)</sup> - M Njima<sup>(2)</sup> - M Daldoul<sup>(1)</sup> - M Korbi<sup>(1)</sup> - I Lahouel<sup>(1)</sup> - H Belhadjali<sup>(1)</sup> - M Youssef<sup>(1)</sup> - J Zili<sup>(1)</sup>

*Fattouma Bourguiba University Hospital, Dermatology, Monastir, Tunisia<sup>(1)</sup> - Fattouma Bourguiba University Hospital, Anatomopathology, Monastir, Tunisia<sup>(2)</sup>*

**Background:** Actinic lichen nitidus (ALN) is an unusual variant of lichen nitidus that appears only on photo-distributed areas. It is usually seen in deeply pigmented pediatric and adult patients. We report an atypical case of ALN in an elderly woman.

**Observation:** A 62-year-old Tunisian woman, presented to our Dermatology department with a one-year history of facial itchy lesions marked during the summer months. Physical examination revealed symmetrically distributed, flesh-colored shiny papules, associated with erythematous-brownish plaques, on her forehead, cheeks, nose and chin and spared the frontal hairline, nasolabial folds, upper eyelids and area of the upper lip. Her Fitzpatrick phototype was II-III. The rest of the exam was normal. Histologic examination was suggestive of lichen nitidus. Treatment included photoprotection and topical corticosteroids with partial remission.

**Key message:** Actinic lichen nitidus is a photo induced lichenoid eruption that showed classical histologic features of lichen nitidus with a degree of clinical similarities. It appears only on photo-distributed areas. ALN affects preferentially individuals of darker skin types (Fitzpatrick skin types IV and V) and has been mainly described in patients of African American, Middle Eastern, and Indian descent. Only one case of ALN on lower Fitzpatrick skin phototype patient, as our case, had been previously reported. This dermatosis is mostly reported in children or young adults. The age of our patient is a particularity. The diagnosis of lichen nitidus is confirmed by the histopathologic exam. Most of reported cases of actinic ALN described lesions on the forehead, dorsum of hands and V area of the neck. Only five cases of exclusive facial lesions were reported. Sun protection appears to be the most important therapeutic modality.

