



INFLAMMATORY SKIN DISEASES (OTHER THAN ATOPIC DERMATITIS & PSORIASIS)

PAPULAR GRANULOMA ANNULARE: RARE ADULT PRESENTATION

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Background: Granuloma annulare (GA) is a benign inflammatory disease of unknown etiology. It primarily affects children and young adults, although it is also reported in elderly. The disorder is believed to represent immune reaction to viral antigens, insect bites, tuberculin tests or secondary to trauma, phototherapy, drugs and neoplasms. In most cases, it manifests clinically as erythematous annular plaque. However, disseminated, perforating, and papular forms are less common. Papular GA is rare and presents as multiple red or flesh-colored umbilicated papules on the extensor surfaces, which resembles vulgar wart, lichen and mucinosis. Histological papular GA is characterized by the presence of palisade granulomas, focal degeneration of collagen and elastic fibers, as well as interstitial and perivascular lymphohistiocytic infiltrate in the middle and deep dermis.

Observation: A 52-year-old female patient developed multiple individual flesh-colored papules, some umbilicated, on the extensor surfaces of upper extremities and on her back, with two months of evolution, without systemic symptoms. A cutaneous biopsy was performed, which revealed a cutaneous inflammatory process with lymphohistiocytic infiltration, sketching granulomas in the reticulated and papillary dermis with multinucleated giant cells around fragmented collagen fibers, suggestive of papular granuloma annulare. After the biopsy, the patient presented spontaneous improvement of the lesions.

Key words: The diagnosis of adult papular GA in the absence of classic annular plaques is difficult, since it affects children more frequently. However, this diagnosis must be suspected and confirmed by histopathological examination.

