



INFLAMMATORY SKIN DISEASES (OTHER THAN ATOPIC DERMATITIS & PSORIASIS)

PRIMARY EROSIIVE PUSTOLAR DERMATOSIS: NOT ONLY SCALP

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Background: Erosive pustular dermatosis (EPD) is a rare condition that typically affects actinically damaged skin of the scalp. Characterized by sterile pustules, erosions and crusts, EPD is difficult to treat and heals slowly. The exact cause of EPD is unknown, although trauma has been reported to be a frequent trigger factor.

Observation: We present the case of a female patient, 94 years old, admitted to our clinic with a clinical history of persistent facial and scalp erosions since 2-3 years without identifiable causes or traumatic procedures. A previous biopsy was initially non specific. Clinical examination revealed the presence of cutaneous lesions involving the left part of the face from the cheek-up to the fronto-parietal region with scalp involvement. The lesions were constituted by confluent pustules predominantly on the forehead and scalp, erythematous patches with superficial erosion on the cheek and zygomatic area, yellow-brown moist crusts and atrophic skin localized on the face. Three biopsies were taken, all showing similar features, consisting of focal pustular collections in the corneous layer of the skin, fibrotic dermis with a thick lympho-plasmacellular and histiocytic infiltrate. Absence of mycetes, mycobacteria and spirochetes. Based on clinical-pathologic correlations, a diagnosis of erosive pustular dermatosis of the face and scalp was made. A treatment with topical and systemic low-dose steroids was started inducing a progressive and marked improvement with regression and healing of pustular lesions, erosions, crusts and scales.

Key message: The interest of our case is the predominant involvement of the skin of the face (cheek, zygomatic region and fore-head) with clinical features that could resemble basal cell carcinoma, whereas the pustular lesions are only restricted to the scalp. As far as we are concerned, this is the first case report of EPD primary located to the face and scalp without traumatic causes or after cosmetic procedures.

