



INFLAMMATORY SKIN DISEASES (OTHER THAN ATOPIC DERMATITIS & PSORIASIS)

SUPERFICIAL LYMPHANGITIS DUE TO INSECT BITE

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Background: Superficial lymphangitis can occur as an allergic reaction to the insect antigen, which is injected into the skin and drained by lymphatic vessels.

Observation: A 20 year old female presented with a rash that had appeared suddenly on the chest. She mentioned pruritus without pain. Two days previously she had been bitten on the shoulder by an insect.

Physical examination showed a red streak starting from round erythematous macule of the shoulder and extending toward the anterior wall of the chest.

Neither fever nor lymph node enlargement were present. Based on the history and on the characteristic disposition of the lesion, a diagnosis of insect bite-induced superficial lymphangitis was made. The patient was successfully treated within 7 days with topical corticosteroids and oral antihistamines.

Key message: Superficial lymphangitis after insect bite is a rare occurrence, representing a particular variant of acute lymphangitis without fever and lymphadenopathy. To date, only a few cases have been described. Marque et al hypothesized that superficial lymphangitis after insect bite is the result of an immunoallergic reaction due to toxins injected, which would be drained by lymphatics and determine a linear-fashioned superficial inflammatory reaction of the overlying skin.

In contrast to infection, the site of insect bites from which lymphangitis emanates is pruritic and not painful or tender. Other characteristic features are the absence of fever and lymph node enlargement and a rapid spontaneous regression.

Lymphangitis secondary to a spider bite constitutes one of the complications not usually encountered, the interrogation is crucial to determine the diagnosis, in the absence of general complications, evolution remains benign.

