



LASERS

GIANT CELL ACTINIC GRANULOMA TREATED WITH THE FRACTIONAL CO₂ LASER

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Background: The giant cell actinic granuloma (GCAG) is a rare entity, different from the annular granuloma, which is most often located in photo-exposed areas. Several topical and oral treatments have been described with variable results. We report a case of GCAG that has significantly improved with the fractional CO₂ Laser.

Observation: A 50-year-old patient, with a history of diabetes mellitus and asthma, presented to our institution for itchy erythematous lesions of the feet evolving over the last year. Skin examination found erythematous maculo-papular lesions that were finely squamous, well-limited, atrophic-in-places and stretching in a centrifugal way. These lesions were resistant to topical corticosteroid treatment for a month. Skin biopsy revealed superficial granulomatous dermatitis. The diagnosis of actinic granuloma with giant cells in its sarcoidosis-like form was retained. Due to resistance to corticosteroid treatment, we tested the fractional CO₂ Laser treatment at 10 watts power and 1.8 density. The results were very satisfactory after 2 sessions with disappearance of itching and decrease in erythema and scaling.

Key message: The originality of this observation lies in the location of the lesions that did not involve the face and the hands. Due to the rareness of GCAG, there is no consensus for its management. The use of physical treatments, including the fractional CO₂ Laser was not reported in the literature. All publications reported the use of topical or oral treatment (such as corticosteroids, calcineurin inhibitors, methotrexate, and dapsone). In our patient, the fractional CO₂ Laser demonstrated excellent efficacy with better results than corticosteroids. Larger scale studies are needed to better assess the effectiveness of this treatment.

