



MUCOSAL DISEASES (ORAL, ANOGENITAL), EXTERNAL EYE DISEASE

## DERMATITIS ARTEFACTA PRESENTING AS A RECURRENT LIP ULCERATION

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**Background:** Dermatitis artefacta is a self-induced disease in a state of clear consciousness by the patient himself, at the level of his skin-mucous coating or his appendages. We report the case of a pathomic patient with ulcerations of the lower lip.

**Observation:** A 22-year-old young woman, without pathological history, with a clear phototype, consulted for an ulceration of the lower lip, progressively increasing in size, evolving for 3 months in a context of conservation of the general state.

The clinical examination showed a painful ulceration, well limited, with a clean surface and a non-indurated base, measured 1×3 cm in diameter, interesting the left half of the lower lip, and impeding feeding and speech. Given the clinical appearance of the lesion, its chronic nature and the lack of response to local care. A cutaneous biopsy was performed, which revealed a loss of substance exposing the chorion without any histological evidence of malignancy. The hemogram was normal, the serology of syphilis and HIV were negative. 15 days later, the evolution was marked by the appearance of a new identical lesion on the right side of the lower lip, with complete healing of the old lesion under occlusive dressing. Repeated interrogation found the notion of self-manipulation by the hand, and family conflicts. The examination by a psychiatrist, confronted with clinical and evolutionary data, concluded that there were pathomimetic lesions.

**Key message:** Dermatitis artefacta is the most frequent form of dermatological expressions of psychiatric disorders. The diagnosis is difficult, because of the multitude of clinical aspects, and is based on the confrontation of dermatological and psychological arguments, in order to differentiate the dermatitis artefacta from multiple differential dermatological and psychiatric diagnoses.

