



PAEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

WHITISH PAPULES IN AN INFANT

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Background: Langerhans cells histiocytosis (LCH) is a rare hematological disorder that arises from the abnormal proliferation and accumulation of myeloid dendritic cells positive for langerin (CD207) in different tissues and organs of the body.

Observation: A 3-month-old female presented with papular lesions which her parents had noticed in the first month of life, without any systemic symptoms. There was no personal or family history of interest. She had been diagnosed with molluscum by different doctors before without resolution of the lesions. Physical examination revealed several whitish macules and 2-3 mm flat papules located on the retroauricular area, trunk, vulva, groin, armpits and neck.

A skin biopsy was performed, showing an infiltrate of histiocytic cells, with an abundant eosinophilic cytoplasm containing a kidney bean shaped indented nucleus, that formed a subepidermal band, with exocytosis and formation of intraepidermal abscesses. Immunohistochemistry was positive for CD1a, S100 and langerin. The diagnosis of LCH was established. Chest X-ray, abdominal ultrasound and skeletal survey were requested, ruling out systemic disease. The patient was referred to the Hemato-Oncology Department, being still under close control and with progressive disappearance of the lesions.

Key message: LCH is usually a multisystem disorder, but occasionally affects only the skin. LCH often presents as erythematous and scaling lesions on the scalp and flexural areas similar to those of seborrheic dermatitis, and less frequently as vesicles, pustules, nodules, ulcerative lesions, petechiae, and mucosal lesions such as erosions and granulomas. Hypopigmented lesions are an uncommon presentation. They could be the only finding of LCH, accompany more typical ones or represent an evolutionary state of advanced resolution of other lesions. It is important to recognize this hypopigmented variant and to include it in the differential diagnosis of hypopigmented lesions in childhood, especially in patients with retroauricular and groin lesions.

