PRURITUS

# FIRST CASE OF PRURIGO PIGMENTOSA IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE.

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Background: Prurigo pigmentosa (PP) is a rare skin disease described first in 1971. Since then, 259 cases have been described outside Japan, only 21 of which were in Europe. The cause of PP is unknown. It usually occurs in young women as reticular lesions, located symmetrically on the torso with characteristic evolution from intensively itching erythematous and edematous papules to brown patchy hyperpigmentation. Significantly, the lesions in various stages of development can occur concomitantly. Oral antibiotics, such as minocycline, doxycycline and macrolides as well as dapson are successfully used during treatment; however, postinflammatory hyperpigmentation may persist for many years following the remission of active lesions.

Observation: A 22-year-old woman was admitted to our clinic due to recurrent skin lesions persisting for 8 years. The patient had been earlier examined and unsuccessfully treated by numerous dermatologists. Macroscopically, reticular pattern of fuscous and red papular and macular lesions were observed, located predominantly on the torso. The patient complained about concurrent burning sensation and severe pruritus. Extensive diagnostics were carried out, but the results were inconclusive. A biopsy of the lesions was conducted, and the histopathological image confirmed the diagnosis of PP. Dermoscopy was also carried out and PP morphology will be discussed. 6 weeks of treatment with doxycycline led to a complete clearance of active lesions as well as demission of pruritus, remained postinflammatory hiperpigmentations only. The remission was maintained for 1 year of follow-up.

Key message: Although this is the first description of this condition in Poland and in Central and Eastern Europe, it cannot be assumed that this disease does not occur in the region. It appears that PP is rarely found outside Japan as a result of underdiagnosis rather than the less frequent incidence of the condition. Interestingly enough, dermoscopic morphology of PP has not been described so far.