



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

## ICHTHYOSIFORM MYCOSIS FUNGOIDES: REPORT OF A RARE ENTITY

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**Background:** Mycosis fungoides (MF) is the most common primary cutaneous Tcell lymphoma, with a wide clinical spectrum. Diagnosis can be difficult in its early stages given the considerable overlap with more common benign dermatoses. We report an unusual case of ichthyosiform MF in a 52-year-old male.

**Observation:** A 52-year-old man was referred for widespread pruritic eruption of 4 years duration. Examination revealed a finely scarring eruption on the trunk, arms, shoulders, thighs and legs, involving more than 70% of his body surface area (BSA). The eruption resembled autosomal dominant ichthyosis vulgaris. Typical lesions of MF were not present. Lymph nodes were enlarged in the inguinal and axillary regions. Results of the following laboratory tests were normal or negative. Histological features of a skin biopsy specimen revealed a picture of acquired ichthyosis (orthokeratotic hyperkeratosis, focal parakeratosis, acanthosis and thinned granular layer) combined with epidermotropic lymphomatous infiltration. Immunohistologically the malignant cells expressed a mature peripheral T cell phenotype (CD3+, CD4+, CD45RO+, CD8-, CD20-). Peripheral blood film for Sézary cells was negative. At the time of diagnosis, the patient was in stage IIIA (T4NxM0B0) as per the TNMB staging system. An excisional biopsy of the axillary lymph node showed a dermatopathic lymphadenopathy. A treatment with low-dose methotrexate is now at one months' duration. Follow-up is ongoing.

**Key message:** In contrast to the inherited forms of chthyosis, acquired ichthyosis usually begins in adult life and is associated with malignant diseases, particularly Hodgkin's disease, infectious and autoimmune diseases, endocrinologic disorders, or other more rare causes. Ichthyosiform mycosis fungoides is a rare variant of the cutaneous lymphoma: less than 20 cases are reported in the literature. The present report illustrates the important to evaluate the sudden appearance of ichtyosiform skin changes in adults in order to rule out this peculiar clinical variant of MF.

