



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

WHEN MYCOSIS FUNGOIDES SIMULATES COMMON INFLAMMATORY SKIN DISEASES

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Background: Mycosis fungoides (MF) is the most common type of cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, which typically presents with erythematous patches and plaques, histologically characterized by infiltrates of atypical epidermotropic T cells. Besides this classic type of MF, many clinical and histopathologic variants have been described. Correct diagnosis of MF variants may be difficult, particularly in early stages, because they may mimic a wide variety of inflammatory skin diseases.

Observation: a collection of cases that simulate inflammatory skin disorders such as psoriasis atopic dermatitis and pityriasis lichenoides are presented. Clinical, confocal and histopathologic features as well as their therapeutic management are discussed.

Key message: MF variants represents a diagnostic challenge. They should be kept in mind to avoid a delayed diagnosis and incorrect immunosuppressive treatment which could lead to a rapid progression of the disease. Clinicopathologic correlation integrated with non-invasive instrumental evaluations such as confocal microscopy permit to reach the correct diagnosis.

