



SKIN MANIFESTATIONS OF INTERNAL DISEASE

DIFFUSE PLANE XANTHOMA CAUSED BY LOCAL CORTICOSTEROIDS IN PATIENT WITH ATOPIC DERMATITIS

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Background: Diffuse plane xanthoma (DPX) is a rare cutaneous disease. Common clinical findings are multiple groups of yellow to orange papules and plaques over the whole body. These are typically seen in normolipemic patients and are associated with hematological malignancy. We report a case of DPX with secondary hyperlipidemia caused by local corticosteroids in an atopic dermatitis patient.

Observation: A 38-year-old man has been referred to our hospital for the treatment of severe atopic dermatitis since childhood. He had not been treated with local or systemic corticosteroid therapy over the last 10 years because he resisted such therapy. He had no prior history of hyperlipidemia. A year after he was given local corticosteroids for the whole body, yellowish and flat plaques appeared on his trunk, and a hematological examination revealed higher levels of cholesterol (307mg/dl) and LDL-cholesterol (231mg/dl) than before. A skin biopsy was taken from the right abdomen and demonstrated an infiltration rich of foamy histiocytes in the upper dermis. These findings are consistent with the diagnosis of DPX, which is likely to be associated with a lipid abnormality.

Key message: The mechanism of DPX has not been clearly defined. In our case, we suspect that the xanthomatous findings may have appeared on a background of chronic inflammation caused by atopic dermatitis and also local corticosteroids, resulting as DPX with secondary hyperlipidemia.

