



SKIN MANIFESTATIONS OF INTERNAL DISEASE

TRIPLE PALMS: A CASE REPORT AND REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

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Background: Tripe palms is a rare paraneoplastic condition. The skin aspect is very peculiar, and its recognition is essential to suspect and search for a hidden neoplasm.

Observation: A 73-year-old woman presented with history of palmar and plantar fissures for 2 years. Lesions were painful, and water and cleaning products aggravated the sensation of burning. Lesions appeared concomitantly with the diagnosis of non-small cell lung cancer. At first examination she had a velvety appearance of the palmar and plantar surface, with skin ridging and sharp demarcation of dermatoglyphics. Skin lesions were consistent with the diagnosis of tripe palms. She had partial response with topical application of 10% urea cream. She started on chemotherapy with carboplatin and paclitaxel and radiotherapy, with partial response of the neoplasm, but no improvement on skin lesions. Tripe palms is a very peculiar paraneoplastic condition. In the majority of the cases, it is associated with lung cancer, followed by gastric adenocarcinoma. It may be associated with malignant acanthosis nigricans (77% of the cases), Leser-Trélat sign (10% of the cases), and, more rarely, with florid cutaneous papillomatosis. Skin biopsy shows hyperkeratosis, papillomatosis, and acanthosis, and sometimes it is difficult to differentiate from HPV infections. Rarely it has been related to nonmalignant conditions: bullous pemphigoid, psoriasis and erythroderma.

Key message: The presence of tripe palms must raise the suspicion of occult malignancy, and appropriate investigation is imperative, especially if they occur in elderly patients with a history of weight loss, respiratory symptoms and familial history of cancer. We aim to highlight the importance of the recognition of skin lesions as manifestations of internal disorders, including malignant neoplasms, as clinical suspicion of an occult malignancy may allow early diagnosis and better outcome.

