

TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

SEABATHER'S ERUPTION: THE DERMATITIS PRESENTS KOEBNER PHENOMENON ?.

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Background: Seabather's eruption (SBE) is an acute dermatitis manifested by erythematous and pruriginous papules localized in body areas covert by swimsuits during or immediately after exposition to sea water. It is caused mainly by contact with larvae of a tiny jellyfish (*Linuche unguiculata*) and the diagnosis is clinical and epidemiological. We report eight cases of SBE with typical lesions and mimicking Köebner's Phenomenon (KP).

Observation: All injuries occurred in Brazil. They occur in single episodes, mostly in children, with itching and located mainly in the areas covered by swimwears. The dermatological examinations showed irregularly distributed erythematous papules, some linear, and rounded erythematous and eczematized plaques of 20mm in three patients. Dermoscopy in two cases was nonspecific. All improved with systemic antihistamines and topical corticosteroids.

Key message: SBE was initially described in Florida and is caused in tropical waters by contact with the schyphomedusae *Linuche unguiculata* (recently in the Philippines, also by *Linuche aquila*) and sea anemones (*Edwardsiella lineata*). Reported in Brazil since 2001 is actually described in various points of the Brazilian Coast. Adult jellyfish (15-40mm) cause rounded erythematous plaques as in the three reported cases. Larvae (2-5mm) can pass through swimwear affecting mainly children and characterized by erythematous papules as seen in this series. The KP or isomorphic response was described in 1871 by Heinrich Köebner in psoriasis, but it can be triggered by numerous diseases, being the term extended to koebnerization. In this series the linear lesions mimicked KP by the random contact of the planulae with the skin; however, others were triggered by trauma in the act of scratching suggesting koebnerization in SBE.