



HAEMANGIOMAS AND VASCULAR MALFORMATIONS

DIFFUSE DERMAL ANGIOMATOSIS IN PLAQUE PSORIASIS TREATED WITH POTENT TOPICAL STEROIDS

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Background: Diffuse Dermal Angiomatosis (DDA) is an unusual variant of cutaneous reactive angioendotheliomatoses, a group of benign vascular disorders characterized clinically by multiple skin ulcers. The condition is associated with advanced atherosclerotic vascular disease, monoclonal gammopathy, obesity and smoking. The most valid pathogenic hypothesis is that tissue hypoxia leads to cytokine upregulation and new vessel formation.

Observation: A 69-year old woman presented with painful ulcers of 4 years' duration on the abdomen, underside of breasts and hips. Their self-regressing nature and atrophic scar formation were in favor of Pyoderma Gangrenosum. Livedoid skin around ulcers was contrary to this diagnosis, however and the initial histopathology interpretations as Kaposi Sarcoma, increased the diagnostic confusion. The patient was suffering from anaerobic skin infection, apparently due to long-term use of potent topical steroids for concomitant Plaque Psoriasis. Her medical history was significant for Atherosclerotic Hypertension, Diabetes Mellitus, and heart valve replacement surgery. The patient was obese and current smoker. The diagnosis of reactive angioendotheliomatosis was made following histopathologic examination by one of us (CJ): The most striking feature within the dermis was the presence of a very florid proliferation of small irregular, anastomosing vascular channels. Endothelial cells were slightly plump but there was very little in the way of mitotic activity. Most of the channels within the proliferation had a layer of pericytes that was highlighted by smooth muscle actin.

Key message: The diagnosis of DDA requires an expertise histopathology report. Since new lesion formation almost ceased following steroid cessation in our patient, we speculate that the constrictive effect potent topical steroids exerted on skin tissue vessels might be a cofactor in disease appearance

