



SKIN MANIFESTATIONS OF INTERNAL DISEASE

EOSINOPHILIC DERMATOSIS OF HEMATOLOGIC MALIGNANCY: A CASE REPORT

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Background: Dermatoses characterized by tissue eosinophilia arising in the context of hematologic disease, previously reported as insect bite-like reaction, is recently known as eosinophilic dermatosis of hematologic malignancy (EDHM). It is a rare condition with a wide variety of clinical presentations, ranging from papules, nodules or blisters that simulate arthropod bites, to plaques. We report a case of EDHM in a patient with hematoproliferative disorders.

Observation: A 71-year-old man presented with a pruritic eruption, which had been present for a few weeks. Significant past medical history included chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), diagnosed in 2006, without need for treatment. At the same week, he was observed by Oncology, due to new onset pancytopenia, leading to the diagnosis of a myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS). Physical examination revealed multiple erythematous-violaceous papules and nodules, located on the face, ear helices and neck. Histological examination of the skin biopsy revealed epidermal spongiosis with superficial and deep perivascular eosinophil-rich dermal infiltrate. Common causes of an eosinophil-rich infiltrate were excluded. The patient also denied any history of insect bite and the diagnosis of EDHM was established. He started medication with oral antihistamine, but there was a rapid deterioration of the patient's condition leading to death.

Key message: Cutaneous involvement by an eosinophil-rich process may be encountered in the setting of hematologic malignancies, presenting a diagnostic and therapeutic challenge. Although the most commonly associated malignancy is CLL, EDHM has also been associated with MDS. It can occur concurrently or appear months to years after the diagnosis, or even precede the cancer diagnosis. Given the limited therapeutic options and refractoriness of this condition, reporting such cases emphasizes the need for further investigation into more effective treatment modalities.

To conclude, it is important to recognize this dermatosis and to be aware that it can indicate progression of the underlying disease.

