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RESEARCH ARTICLE

NECROBIOSIS LIPOIDICA AS AN ATYPICAL MANIFESTATION OF CUTANEOUS SARCOIDOSIS

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Abstract

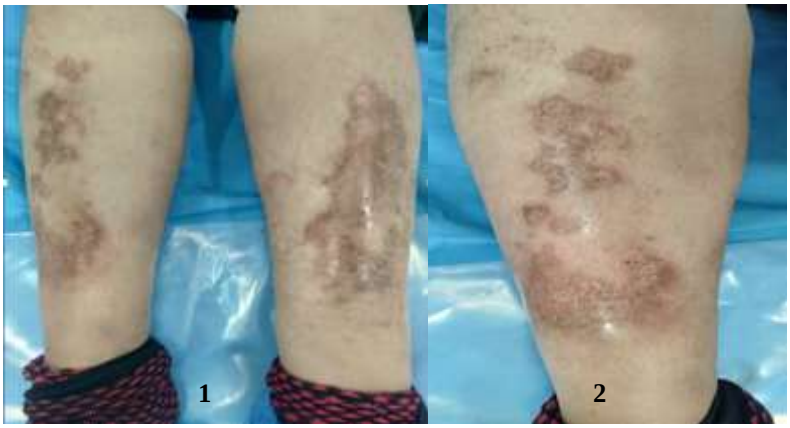
We report a clinical case of cutaneous sarcoidosis manifesting as necrobiosis lipoidica.

Introduction:

Sarcoidosis is a systemic granulomatosis characterised by the presence of epithelioid and gigantocellular granulomas without necrosis. Necrobiosis lipoidica is a cutaneous granulomatosis closely associated with diabetes, combining palisading granulomas and foci of necrobiosis.

Case report:

A 60-year-old woman with type 2 diabetes on oral antidiabetic drugs (OADs) and moderate obesity with a BMI of 27.1. She presented with erythemato-atrophic plaques on her legs, which had been progressing for 6 months. Dermatological examination revealed multiple, well-limited, finely scaly, oval erythematous plaques with a scleroatrophic center and indurated annular border, located bilaterally and asymmetrically in the pre-tibial region of both legs (Figures 1-2). The rest of the physical examination was unremarkable. Histological examination of a skin biopsy showed a well-differentiated squamous layer supported by a fibrous dermis with inflammatory and granulomatous epithelio-giganto-cellular changes, forming palisades around eosinophilic necrobiotic material with no vascularor nerve involvement, pointing to pseudo-necrobiotic sarcoidosis. As part of the work-up for sarcoidosis, a chest CT scan revealed stage 2 mediastino-pulmonary involvement. The patient was put on synthetic antimalarials and dermocorticoids under occlusion with partial improvement.



Figures 1 : Well-limited erythematous plaques with a scleroatrophic centre and annular border, located in the pre-tibial region of the two legs, **2 :** improvement after treatment

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Discussion:

Pseudo-necrobiotic sarcoidosis is a very rare and atypical form of cutaneous sarcoidosis, which has long been described in non-diabetic women, followed for systemic sarcoidosis, who developed lesions of the lower limbs histologically compatible with lipoid necrobiosis [1]. In a few cases, the lesionspreceded the diagnosis of systemic sarcoidosis and patients were misdiagnosed with lipoid necrobiosis. The association with diabetes, as in our case, has been reported in one case in the literature [1].

Conclusion:

Pseudo-necrobiotic sarcoidosis is a very rare and atypical form of sarcoidosis, which may be misdiagnosed as necrobiosislipoidica.

Reference:

[1]Chouk C, Jones M, Litaiem N, Chemli A, Gara S, Ezzine N, et al. Sarcoïdose cutanée à type de nécrobiose lipoïdique: deux nouvelles observations. Annales de Dermatologie et de Vénéréologie. 2018;145: 67.