

POST-HERPES ZOSTER KELOID

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The case of a 5-year-old girl who developed a keloid at the site of herpes zoster is reported. This is a rare complication of zoster.

Key words : Keloid, Herpes zoster, Complications.

Herpes zoster caused by Varicella-Zoster virus causes several complications, but extensive keloid formation is a rarity.

Case Report

A 5-year-old female child had herpes zoster one year ago. The lesions were present along the course of the left tenth and eleventh thoracic nerves. She was treated with oral corticosteroids and antibiotics with local cortisone ointment applications. One year later, she developed a keloid extending on the abdominal wall along the course of the tenth and the eleventh thoracic nerves. There was no evidence of keloid anywhere else on the body. The patient was treated with intra-lesional hydrocortisone acetate injections, which relieved the symptoms and growth of the keloid.

Comments

The post-herpetic complications such as neuralgia, cranial nerve palsy, motor paresis, hemiplegia, myelitis¹, encephalitis², cerebral vasculitis^{3,4} etc, are recorded, but extensive keloid formation in the skin lesions of herpes zoster in the modern era of corticosteroid and anti-viral drugs, is an uncommon complication⁵.

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The exact cause of keloid formation in this disease is not known. The skin lesions in this disease are produced by lysis of the infected cells. However, in the process of eliminating the virus and the secondary infection, the immune response of the body may produce extensive tissue damage, leading to fibrosis and scarring.⁶ This may be the cause of extensive keloid formation in our case.

References

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