

# Penile enlargement and ulcers in cutaneous Crohn's disease

A 31-year-old man with no known comorbidities presented with 6-month-old penile enlargement. Dermatological examination revealed a non-tender, curved, and enlarged penis measuring 5 inches long and 4 inches in circumference [Figure 1a], multiple ulcers (0.5 x 0.5 cm) with sloping edges over the foreskin [Figure 1b], and a linear ulcer over the intergluteal region (8 x 2 cm) [Figure 1c]. Laboratory investigations including Gram and Giemsa-stained smears, and colonoscopy were normal. Fungal culture and GeneXpert for tuberculosis were negative. Ulcer biopsy showed lymphocytic aggregates, Langerhans giant cells,

and epithelioid cell granulomas in the dermis, indicative of Crohn's disease, and the patient was treated with oral prednisolone (40 mg/day) in tapering doses, azathioprine 50 mg twice daily and metronidazole 400 mg thrice daily. After 3-months, the patient exhibited a marked reduction in ulcer size and the size of the penis. Genital swelling with cutaneous Crohn's disease is uncommon and arises from granulomas obstructing lymph vessels, leading to granulomatous lymphangiopathy that tends to persist and get exacerbated with each flare-up, gradually distorting the genital anatomy.



**Figure 1:** Clinical image showing (a) Enlarged penis. (b) Multiple ulcers over the foreskin and (c) Linear knife-cut ulcer over the intergluteal cleft.

**Declaration of patient consent:** The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent.

**Financial support and sponsorship:** Nil.

**Conflicts of interest:** There are no conflicts of interest.

**Use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for manuscript preparation:** The authors confirm that there was no use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for assisting in the writing or editing of the manuscript and no images were manipulated using AI.

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**How to cite this article:** Vendhan S, Das P, Kashif AW. Penile enlargement and ulcers in cutaneous Crohn's disease. Indian J Dermatol Venereol Leprol. doi: 10.25259/IJDVL\_344\_2024

**Received:** March, 2024 **Accepted:** July, 2024 **Epub Ahead of Print:** September, 2024

**DOI:** 10.25259/IJDVL\_344\_2024

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